

No. 65,980

THURSDAY AUGUST 28 1997



THE FULL MONTY

Geoff Brown sees a joyous comedy

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OLD ROCKERS SPEAK OUT

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Dylan and the Pope

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FULL DETAILS IN SECTION 3



Her concerns 'are humanitarian'

Princess tries to calm anger of the Tories

By EMMA WILKINSON, ANDREW PIERCE AND BEN MACINTYRE

DIANA, Princess of Wales, sought to extricate herself from a deepening political row yesterday over her alleged criticism of the former Conservative Government's policy on landmines.

The Princess denied that she had described Tory policy as "hopeless" to a French newspaper but Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, intervened to exploit her remarks for the maximum political capital.

Conservative MPs reacted with outrage over the Princess's alleged comments as *Le Monde* said it stood by its story.

In an interview with Annick Cojean the Princess is quoted as saying: "The Labour Government's position has always been clear. It's going to do terrific work. Its predecessor was really hopeless."

The Princess, who is in contact with her office by mobile phone from her Mediterranean cottage with David Fayed, is said to be extremely annoyed and feels "very let down" by *Le Monde*.

Her office said: "The attention of Diana, Princess of Wales, has been drawn to reports to the effect that in an article published by *Le Monde* she was quoted as being critical of the previous Government's policy towards the banning of anti-personnel landmines."

"The Princess made no such criticism. Her stance on the question of landmines has been apolitical throughout. Her concerns are exclusively humanitarian."

Miss Cojean, who speaks

fluent English, and has worked for *Le Monde* for 15 years, denied that she had misquoted the Princess. "I wrote exactly what she said," she said. "It's I wrote everything she said and only what she said."

Miss Cojean, who has kept her notes, said that she had sent some supplementary questions to the Princess. "I didn't know if it was so important. Everybody knows the Conservatives were not ready to move on banning landmines. The Princess was great. I really believe in her sincerity."

Mr Cook, who is in Kuala Lumpur, expressed his "immense admiration" for the Princess. When asked whether such a political intervention was wise he said: "I have never criticised anyone for being frank about the previous Government."

Mr Cook, who saw the Princess before her recent trip to meet landmine victims in Bosnia, welcomed her cam-

paign for a worldwide ban. "I am very pleased she recognises the Labour Government shares her concern and has already made very substantial progress towards signalling Britain's complete withdrawal from the production and trade in landmines. What motivates her is the damage that has been done to so many innocent people, particularly children."

The Tory Party leadership, which was irritated by the intervention of the Foreign Secretary, refused to be drawn. But Sir Patrick Cormack, shadow deputy Leader of the Commons, described the Princess as "unwise, inexperienced" and "damaging her own cause".

Lord Blake, the historian and constitutionalist said: "It is quite the most extraordinary thing I have heard from a member of the Royal Family. Party politics has always been taboo. Members of the Royal Family until now have stayed aloof from the divisions of party politics and never breached the convention."

A friend of the Princess spoke of her frustration and annoyance at being dragged into a political row. "She has always been studiously non-political. It's true that she was delighted by the stance of the new Government but there is no way she would criticise its predecessor. It beggars belief that she would make a comment like that."

It is understood that a draft

Continued on page 2, col 2

Magnus Linklater and Diary, page 16

Rows take shine off Labour's poll lead

By PETER RIDDELL

THE Government's recent squalls and squabbles have hit Labour's commanding poll lead. But the latest MORI poll for *The Times* still gives Tony Blair a far stronger position than any previous new Prime Minister as he returns to 10 Downing Street this morning for the first time in nearly four weeks.

The poll, undertaken last weekend, puts Labour on 54 per cent, down three points compared with the end of July.

MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,758 adults at 163 sampling points across Britain on a face-to-face basis on August 21 to 25. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population and voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (7 per cent), are undecided (4 per cent) or who refused to say (1 per cent).

Back to earth, page 16

British rail fares dearest in world

A survey shows that Britain's rail travellers pay the highest ticket prices in the world — almost three times the international average.

The report, by a City bank, says that there has been a 12 per cent rise since privatisation began. The public funds handed to the privatised rail operators increased by £2 billion last year, a third more than was paid to BR in 1994.

The housing boom, which has led to large increases in London, has taken root in rural areas, according to a report released by The Land Registry.

Areas such as Hartlepool, Hampshire and Staffordshire have shown higher price increases than in Greater London. Overall, house prices have risen by 8.9 per cent in England and Wales in a year.

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Housing boom in rural areas

The moves took place in spite of opposition from Arthur Scargill, the NUM president.

Page 23

Mining unions bury the hatchet

Senior officials of the National Union of Mineworkers and the Union of Democratic Mineworkers have joined for the first time since the split during the 1984-85 miners' strike in an attempt to save Asfordby, the Leicestershire superpit closed last week.

The moves took place in spite of opposition from Arthur Scargill, the NUM president.

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Race and rejects, page 16

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How would you vote if there were a general election tomorrow?

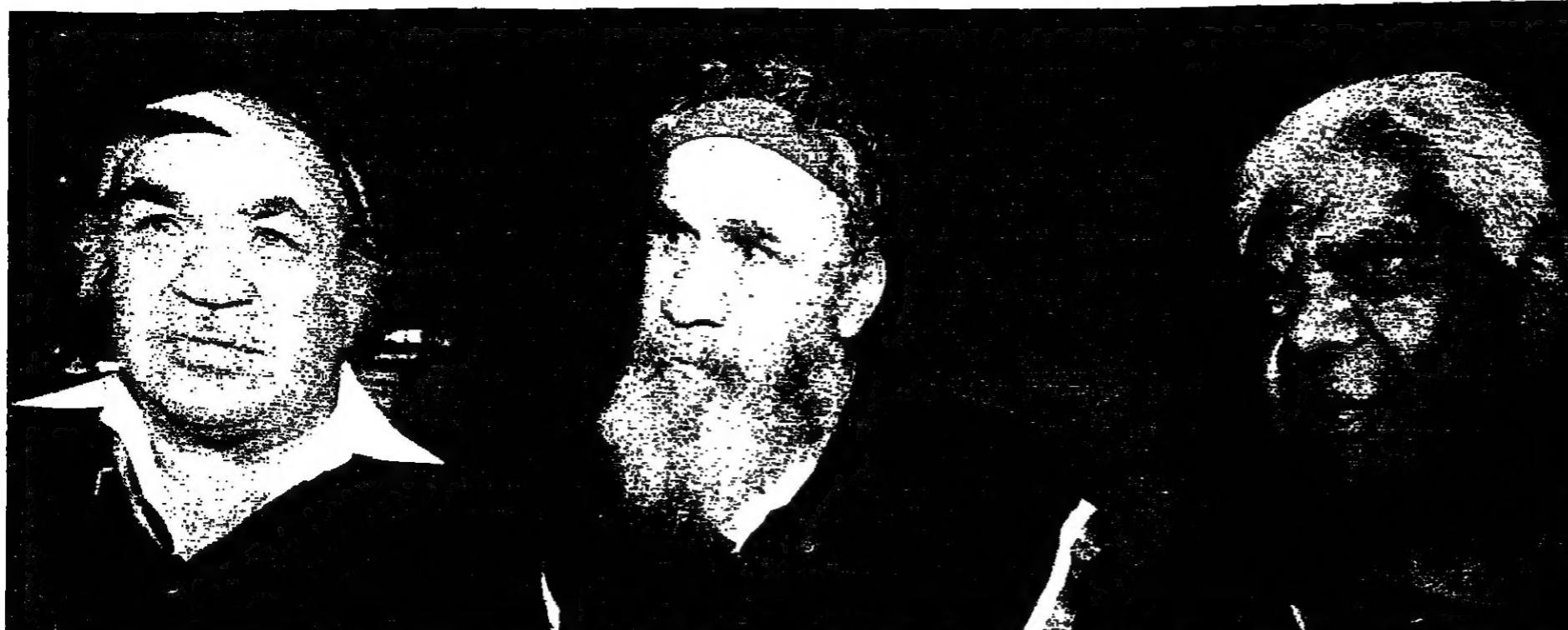
Conservative 26%

Labour 54%

Other 3%

Lib Dem 1%

Other 3%



Three Aboriginal elders arrive at Heathrow to reclaim the skull of the 19th century Ballaruk leader Yagan, exhumed from a Liverpool cemetery. An injunction delaying removal was granted yesterday to Corrie Bodney, from Perth, who says he is Yagan's closest descendant yet was not asked for consent

Drop-out rate for GNVQs a cause for concern

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

FEWER than half the pupils hoping to complete the main vocational alternative to A levels this summer finished the course on time, according to a national breakdown of results published today.

Almost 200,000 young people took one of the three levels of General National Vocational Qualification this year, continuing the growth in non-academic study by teenagers. The 91.746 completing a course represented a 11 per cent increase on last year.

More than half of those intending to complete an advanced award, equivalent to two A levels, had failed to do so by July 31. The completion rate for younger pupils taking foundation and intermediate awards was lower still.

Students have five years in which to complete a GNVQ, and last year's completion rate increased by 10 per cent in the 12 months following publication of the equivalent statistics. However, the high drop-out rate from the courses has attracted criticism and is being examined by ministers.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, has promised to raise the quality of vocational qualifications. There are plans to introduce a compulsory final examination to ensure that assessment is as rigorous as that for academic courses. This year, 94 per cent of Advanced GNVQ candidates applying for higher education places received offers.

Christina Townsend, who chairs the Joint Council of National Vocational Awarding Bodies, said: "This year has seen another excellent set of results from students taking this qualification." She added that GNVQs were now a popular route into employment and increasing numbers were using them as a vehicle into higher education.

A LEVELS

Some editions of *The Times* last Saturday did not carry the A-level league table for state and independent schools. For those readers who missed the guide *The Times* will be publishing it in full again tomorrow.

Rail travel in Britain is most expensive in world

BY FRASER NELSON
AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

RAIL passengers in Britain are paying the highest ticket prices in the world, according to an international survey by a leading City firm.

The cost of UK train travel is almost three times the world average after an average 12 per cent rise since the privatisation programme began, the survey claims. UBS, the City bank which compiled the report, calculates that the average cost of a standard class 120-mile journey is now £35.50, against £24 in 1994 – the last full year before privatisation.

At that time, Britain's railways ranked alongside those of Switzerland as the most expensive in the world. Now, the cost of making the same 120-mile journey in Britain has risen by 40 per cent while global prices have remained constant. In Switzerland the journey costs £22.98.

The increase in ticket prices comes as the public subsidy to the privatised rail operators increased to £2 billion last year, a third more than was paid to British Rail in 1994.

CAPITAL COSTS: FROM BURGERS TO HOTELS

City	Burger	1kg Bread	1kg Rice	Average cost of medium car	Eating out	Hotel stay
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Amsterdam	19	13	14	10,500	18.10	182.00
Bangkok	39	33	22	13,500	18.00	127.00
Berlin	18	12	14	12,500	15.50	145.00
London	20	8	13	17,000	17.40	235.00
Moscow	104	59	108	5,217	31.00	200.00
New York	12	8	8	20,000	27.70	275.00
Paris	21	18	21	10,000	13.00	189.00
Shanghai	75	143	81	17,300	18.00	217.00
Tokyo	9	14	22	5,200	37.30	190.00
Warsaw	53	34	29	3,850	17.40	142.00

All the above costs were originally stated in US dollars. Converted at \$1.51/£1.

UBS's survey, which is produced every three years, showed that the cost of almost every mode of travelling in Britain was far higher than other European countries, and substantially higher than in the USA.

London's bus and Underground system is the fifth most expensive capital transport network in the world, with a six-mile journey costing an average £1.22. The same journey in Copenhagen would cost £1.55, 85p in Paris, 60p in Hong Kong and 19p in

Prague. The comparison comes as an embarrassment to John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, who last week mounted a campaign to persuade motorists to switch to public transport. Rail campaigners insisted last night that the high cost of travel is the price passengers have had to pay for privatisation.

Jonathan Bray, of the pressure group Save our Railways, said: "The public will find it hard to understand how British railways are more expensive than Switzerland."

Although Tory ministers prevented train companies introducing above-inflation fare increases on commuter routes, opponents of privatisation claim that train operators are free to impose big increases on long-distance and off-peak journeys.

Train operators said last night that increasing competition on railways would hold down, and possibly even reduce prices over the next few years. A spokesman for Oprah, the franchising director's office responsible for fares, said that it was "impossible" to make sensible comparisons on the basis of a single journey.

The UBS report also claims that cars are more expensive in the UK than anywhere else outside the Far East. For a medium-sized vehicle, a London family can expect to pay £17,000 against the £10,800 paid by a Paris family and £9,550 paid in New York.

London hotels were also named as the most expensive in the world, charging £253 for one night in a twin first-class hotel room against the world average of £103. The capital's restaurants prove less expensive, charging the global average of £17.30 for a typical dinner of steak, two side dishes and dessert.

Detectives investigating the death of a violinist with the Halle orchestra who was found collapsed with a head injury on the floor of his isolated mill cottage near Stockport. Jim Cropper, 55, was the longest-serving musician in the Manchester-based orchestra. He was taken to hospital by a paramedic crew from his home in Mill Brow, Marple Bridge. Greater Manchester Police later said that they were treating his death as suspicious. His sudden death follows a dispute between the dead man's wife Gina, a music teacher and local residents.

Violinist death 'suspect'

Detectives are investigating the death of a violinist with the Halle orchestra who was found collapsed with a head injury on the floor of his isolated mill cottage near Stockport. Jim Cropper, 55, was the longest-serving musician in the Manchester-based orchestra. He was taken to hospital by a paramedic crew from his home in Mill Brow, Marple Bridge. Greater Manchester Police later said that they were treating his death as suspicious. His sudden death follows a dispute between the dead man's wife Gina, a music teacher and local residents.

Fire death was arson

Detectives investigating the death in a fire of a nine-year-old girl fear she may have been the victim of a racist attack. Forty-five police officers are working around the clock to find witnesses to the arson which left Anum Khan dead and her teenage brother Majid in a critical condition in hospital. The murder inquiry was launched yesterday after forensic experts discovered petrol had been poured through the letter box of the house in Cowley, Oxford, at 3am on Tuesday.

The fire happened a week after two other arson attacks on houses in the area. Police are not linking the fires.

Royals block plans

Plans to build an outdoor activity centre on the doorstep of the Queen's Highland estate at Balmoral have been blocked following objections from the Royal family. The proposals would have seen a massive outdoor pursuits centre being developed beside the picturesque town of Ballater on Royal Deeside. Developers hoped to provide public access to quad biking, archery and laser clay pigeon shooting on a popular site at the Bridge of Cairn. But the Royal Family, who spend much of their summer vacation on the estate, objected to the development.

Cricketer 'died of fright'

A schoolboy cricketer may have died of fright during a school match after being hit by a ball which bounced off the artificial pitch, an inquest was told. Yasir Ghodwala, 12, was playing the last ball of a tied match for the Little Ilford Comprehensive School team on May 6. Pathologist Dr Michael Heath said: "Fright may have contributed to the adrenalin rush, along with the excitement of the match, at a crucial point in the game. The Walthamstow inquest was adjourned for further tests to be carried out.

Princess tries to calm Tory anger

Continued from page 1
of the article, which was sent to Kensington Palace did not contain the alleged comments.

The Princess, who was divorced a year ago today, had agreed to co-operate with *Le Monde* after Mme Cojean asked her to take part in a series in which famous people talked about their favourite photographs.

Mme Cojean flew to London in early June. During a 30-minute conversation, Mme Cojean made notes in the presence of a member of the Princess's staff. The conversation was not tape-recorded.

The Princess eventually settled on a photograph of herself comforting a terminally-ill Pakistani boy at a cancer hospital in Lahore.

A few weeks later, the Princess received 40 written questions from Mme Cojean which she understood were to form the basis of the interview. It is understood that the

Livingstone attack on party shake-up

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR'S determination to put an end to party squabbles on his return from holiday has been immediately undermined by a strong attack from the Left on his plans to modernise Labour's organisation.

Ken Livingstone, the left-wing MP for Brent East, openly criticises the proposals to change the party conference and the structure of the national executive, claiming that they will suppress debate.

In an article in today's *New Statesman*, Mr Livingstone, who is vying with Peter Mandelson for a place on Labour's NEC claims that the *Partnership in Power* changes are based on the view that differences of opinion can be avoided by slick PR and the suppression of open debate.

He warns that attempts to stamp out dissent will backfire. "As John Major

learns no amount of stage-management will succeed in suppressing the differences that will arise if the government's policies fail to meet the electorate's aspirations," says Mr Livingstone. He argues that if debate is no longer allowed at annual conferences it will emerge at fringe meetings or briefings by ministers.

Mr Livingstone claims that

Mr Blair's plans to reduce the policy-making influence of the annual conference represents the biggest change to the party's constitution since 1918.

He argues that in future policy making will be in the hands of the Joint Policy Committee which is chaired by the prime minister and will include equal numbers of ministers, whom he appoints, and NEC members.

It will make far harder for left-wingers like Dennis Skinner to get elected, he says.

Dalyell unrepentant about role in devolution debate

BY NICHOLAS WATT, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TAM DALYELL, the veteran Labour MP, infuriated party leaders yesterday by announcing that he would oppose the Scottish Secretary in a live television debate about devolution.

Donald Dewar will face a screen challenge from his party colleague, a staunch opponent of devolution, in a Scottish Television debate three days before the referendum on September 11.

Labour sources attempted yesterday to play down Mr Dalyell's role in the programme. But Jim Swan, secretary of Mr Dalyell's constituency association in Linlithgow, said it was "deeply hurtful" that the MP should join the opposition camp.

In the 90-minute debate Mr Dalyell will argue in favour of a no vote with Michael Ancram, the Tory spokesman on constitutional affairs. Mr

then any moral bounds that restrain me evaporate. I will tell Donald that he is wrong in saying that the parliament will strengthen the union and that Alex Salmond is right in saying that it will end up as a Scottish state separate from England."

Opinion polls indicate that Scots will vote overwhelmingly in favour of a parliament in Edinburgh. However, many Labour supporters have said that they will vote no to a second question asking whether the parliament should have tax-varying powers.

The Conservatives will step up their "no" campaign next week when William Hague, the party leader, visits Scotland on Monday. Tony Blair will visit at the end of the week. Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, will start a two-day visit to Scotland today.

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unrepentant about
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value.

THE TIMES THURSDAY AUGUST 28 1997

Plagiarism claim leaves Celtic poets lost for words

Literature lovers may find that Cornishman's work is familiar

reports Simon de Bruxelles

stares On a good day you would remember us/the rabbit John brought home that year.

A poem also called *Memory*, published under Mr Kent's name, in *Modern Cornish Poets*, begins: "On a good day you would remember us/the mackerel Sean brought home that year."

Mr Thomson '96, said he was surprised by how closely Mr Kent's poems resembled his: "You would expect a plagiarist to play about with things a bit more."

Jamie Byng, of Mr Thomson's publisher, Canongate Books, said: "The plagiarism is so amateurish it's almost

ALONG THE SAME LINES

On Glasgow Streets by Derek Thomson

When I hear Glasgow waitresses talking earnestly about Perry Como or Starsky and Hutch, or singing a song by John Lennon. I remember that Wallace is one the window, and Alasdair MacColl at the mill of Gorcum go and my country, for lack of will has gone to hell.

Portrait of the artist as a young monkey

**BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR**

CAPUCHIN monkeys enjoy nothing more than to model clay into shapes and decorate it with paint and leaves, American researchers have found.

The results are unlikely to win any prizes, although these days you can never tell. It may not be art, but the monkeys evidently know what they like.

Ten captive Capuchin monkeys were given the raw materials for self-expression by Gregory Westergard and Stephen Suomi from the US National Institutes of Health Animal Centre in Maryland.

They were provided with lumps of clay, stones, tempera paint and leaves, while the researchers sat back in watch.

The Capuchins spent up to 30 minutes reshaping the clay with their hands and decorating it with the paint and the leaves. "They take great care," Dr Westergard told *New Scientist*. "They are very focused when they are making them."



Appling art clever
Capuchin monkey

monkeys were keener than others.

Dr Westergard believes that captivity may have liberated the monkeys' talent for art. Because they do not have to forage for food and defend themselves against predators, they seek out other activities.

"Art doesn't happen unless you are smart," Dr Westergard says. "I think such expressions are the inevitable consequences of an intelligent but restless mind." He suggests that the monkeys' inventive instincts may mirror the way that artistic skills developed in humans.

In human beings, art did not develop until the emergence of *Homo sapiens* about 40,000 years ago. Neanderthal Man, who had a large brain and was certainly a more capable primate than a Capuchin monkey, never developed art, although he was a tool-maker.

Husband who snapped told to leave home

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A DEPUTY headmaster who temporarily lost control and pushed his wife against a door after she confessed to an affair with one of his "best friends" was ordered yesterday to give up his home to her.

Despite expressing sympathy for the man's plight, two Court of Appeal judges yesterday refused to overturn an earlier ruling ordering the husband out of the family home, although they said that his estranged wife had "created the situation".

The husband, from the Portsmouth area, had vowed not to harm his wife again and had offered to sleep in a separate room and stay out of the main part of the house.

After dismissing his appeal, Lady Justice Butler-Sloss and Lord Justice Phillips gave him until noon on September 6 to leave so that his wife and their three children, aged nine, seven and five, and who are currently living in a women's refuge, can move back in.

In June this year the wife confessed that she had had a brief affair with a family friend. Her husband later admitted that he had reacted badly over the following three

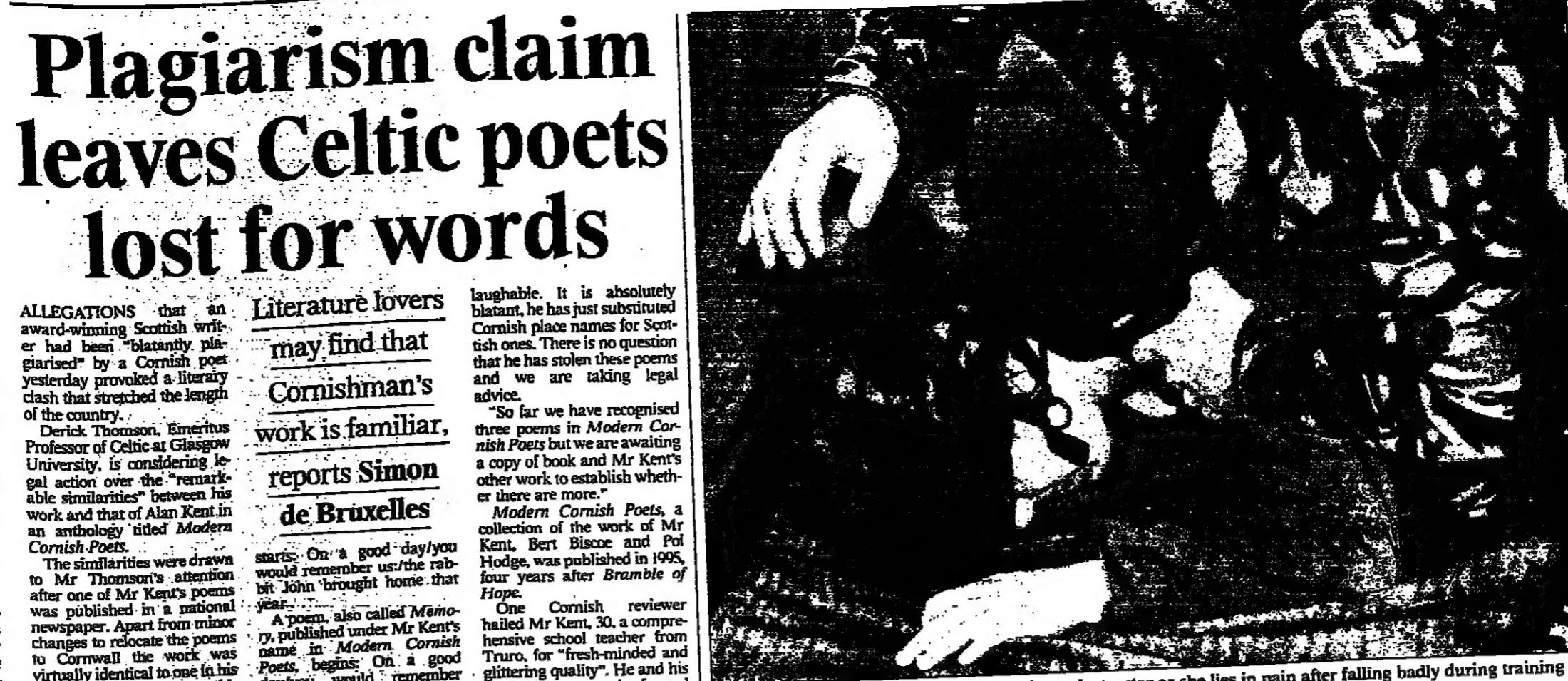
or four days, pushing her against the door once and gripping her wrists hard enough to leave a mark on two other occasions.

But he was stunned when his wife took the children and fled, claiming she was too frightened to return while he was in their home. In July she won a ruling from Portsmouth County Court that her husband should leave the house by August 8 despite his promise not to harm her. But the order was stayed when the husband applied for leave to appeal against the decision.

Lady Justice Butler-Sloss said: "Members of the public might be forgiven for thinking that when a man finds his wife has committed adultery with one of his best friends and she tells it to him his reaction is likely to be uncontrollable."

But to have been violent on three occasions had been "over the top", and although she had "no doubt" that the husband's promise not to harm his wife was genuine, to allow them to live under the same roof would "create a situation fraught with emotional turmoil" leading to the "risk of further violence".

DELL



Marines accused of bullying recruits

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

AN investigation is underway into allegations of bullying at the Royal Marines commando training base at Lympstone, near Exmouth, Devon.

It follows claims that a corporal kicked recruits during live firing exercises on the range and comes at a time when the Army is ordering a "softer, more caring" approach to training, ending years of squaddie-bashing tradition.

The inquiry, which could result in a court martial, is also investigating claims that recruits were ordered to perform "pull ups" if they failed to meet the exacting standards demanded by officers.

It is believed the four complainants have quit the course.

A source at the Royal Marines camp said: "Some of these allegations are quite extraordinary because recruits being told to do press-ups or pull-ups is hardly bullying. Perhaps this shows that times are changing and that a more kid gloves attitude is the one to pursue. Recruitment is a problem for all the services, and stories of bullying don't help our image."

The commando training base has been embarrassed by bullying incidents in the past. Two drunken Marines instructors who sexually assaulted a half-naked teenage recruit were each jailed for 18 months. And four Marines who attacked a sleeping comrade were also jailed.

Downfall of a showcase soldier

BY JOANNA BALE

IT WAS meant to be a demonstration of the new, kinder Army training methods designed to lure modern teenagers. Then one woman's downfall demonstrated that a soldier's life can still be pretty tough.

Just as Dr John Reid, the Armed Forces Minister, was touring the Training Regiment at Pirbright, Surrey, Leanne Wickham fell heavily while diving head first between tapes onto a mat during an exercise. She hurt her shoulder and cried

out in pain. The teenage recruit was reassured by her instructor and stretchered off to hospital. An Army spokesman said: "She is having X-rays but we think it is just a muscle strain."

Dr Reid had been launching the new Army Training and Recruitment Agency, to try to boost falling recruitment by doing away with the traditional "bullying and bawling" approach of sergeant majors. He rejected "ill-informed comment" that the changes were a soft option, although courses had to be longer to

enable today's recruits to achieve required standards. He said: "This approach is all about modernising, not mollycoddling. It is not about turning Sergeant Majors into social workers."

Dr Sergeant Allan Gardner said that the new generation of recruits started at a disadvantage from spending too much time playing computer games and watching television. He added: "Many schools these days do very little sport, so we have to allow for it. The course is longer — but we get the same result in the end."

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Housing boom spreads to rural areas

By KATHERINE BERGEN

THE housing boom, a phenomenon traditionally led by London, has taken root in rural areas, according to a report released by The Land Registry yesterday.

Areas as diverse as Hartlepool, Hampshire and Staffordshire have shown higher price increases than in Greater London, indicating that the recovery has taken a firm hold in more than just the South East. Overall, house prices have risen by 8.9 per cent in England and Wales in a year.

Figures show that the average price in Greater London was 12.5 per cent higher in April to June this year than

during the same period last year. But there were larger increases in house prices in a number of other areas, including Staffordshire (18.9 per cent), Hartlepool (17.9 per cent), Conwy, Wales (17 per cent), East Sussex (16.5 per cent) Dorset (15.6 per cent) and Bedfordshire (16.4 per cent).

The greatest increase has been in Buckinghamshire, where prices have risen by 25.3 per cent from £92,726 in April to June 1996 to £116,224 one year later. This is consistent across the entire range of property including detached and semi-detached houses, terraced houses, maisonettes

and flats. Andrew Rome, an estate agent with Knight Frank in Beaconsfield, said yesterday: "Our own figures almost exactly tally with this. We estimated a 24.6 per cent increase for the same period. Property in Buckinghamshire

borough experienced a fall in the same period. Martin Longhurst, of estate agents Humphrey Skitt & Co, said yesterday that prime areas of Greenwich in the last year (Katherine Bergen writes). Average prices in the borough fell from £79,718 to £79,329, a drop of 0.5 per cent. Only one other London

Thamesmead as well as Woolwich and these less sought after areas affect average prices," he said. He estimated that although a two-bedroom house bordering Greenwich Park might cost £150,000, a similar property in Charlton — nearer the dome site — might be worth only half as much.

Counties, these buyers are finding very little to buy in Hertfordshire and are spreading into Buckinghamshire, he added.

There were also some spectacular price rises in some London boroughs over the period, including the City of London from £125,376 to £165,651 (32.1 per cent), Tower Hamlets from £81,725 to £104,842 (28.2 per cent) and Islington from £121,407 to £149,905 (23.4 per cent).

Kensington and Chelsea remains by far the most expensive borough. After sales above £1 million are excluded from the statistics, average prices are £272,000. Westminster is the second most expensive

borough, then Croydon, with the average home there costing £155,000. Richmond is fourth at £168,000.

Average prices have fallen in only two boroughs. Kingston upon Thames has dropped from £108,471 to £105,601 (down 2.9 per cent) and Greenwich has dropped from £79,718 to £79,329 (down 0.5 per cent). Local agents blame the prospect of prolonged disruption while the Millennium dome is built.

Outside London, of the 78 areas for which comparative figures were available, just seven, including Wrexham, Durham, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil, suffered falls in property prices.

Millennium blights prices in Greenwich

and flats. Andrew Rome, an estate agent with Knight Frank in Beaconsfield, said yesterday: "Our own figures almost exactly tally with this. We estimated a 24.6 per cent increase for the same period. Property in Buckinghamshire

has certainly been undervalued in the past. However, we recently sold a property for double the guide price."

The country residential review recently published by Knight Frank gives a price profile for Buckinghamshire

for June this year. The review estimates that the current average price for a manor house in the county is £12.5 million, £700,000 for a farmhouse and £280,000 for a cottage. Jeremy Smallman, from Strutt & Parker's St

Albans office, agreed that Buckinghamshire sales had been exceptional over the past year. "Sales, especially at the top end of the market, are very often to London commuters.

"Although it is not one of the

most fashionable of the Home

Father thought hanged children were joking

By DANIEL MCGROARY

A FATHER whose 13-year-old daughter and her best friend died in an accidental hanging said yesterday that he had thought they were playing a joke on him. Steve Rogers said: "I thought they were just playing dead by keeping very still and I started to tickle them."

Mr Rogers, 41, was describing the moment he walked into his daughter's bedroom and found her and a ten-year-old neighbour hanging by a scarf threaded through the rail of a bunk bed.

Mr Rogers bit his lip to hold back from weeping as he said that Daniel Gibbs' feet were almost touching the ground and his daughter, Claire, was lying face down on the bottom bunk. A scarf was wound tightly round their necks.

"I crept up to Daniel, who is ticklish, but he did not move and then I noticed the scarf... but I could not undo it,"

"I crept up to Daniel, who is ticklish, but he did not move and then I noticed the scarf... but I could not undo it,"

tion over the telephone, which Mrs Rogers shouted to her husband. Sarah then took over so that the couple could try to revive both children.

Mrs Rogers said tearfully: "We tried, we kept trying, but it was too late."

The children described as being like brother and sister, had spent the day playing cricket. Mr Rogers said: "Claire was a tomboy and she loved Arsenal. She was a fanatic about them and her cricket and her rugby." They

were last seen making a camp, using dining room chairs, in Claire's bedroom. Mrs Rogers said: "The last time I saw them they both grinned because they knew they were making a mess, but they were having such fun. I could hear them laughing as I walked away."

Daniel's 13-year-old sister, Helen, said: "They used to tie each other's legs all the time to see who could escape the quickest. They would pretend they had been kidnapped and that someone was coming to rescue them." Claire's younger sister, Amy, nine, said they also used to play torture games and tie each other up around the neck.

Mr Rogers, a British Telecom engineer, was decorating a downstairs room at the time of the tragedy. He said: "I just don't understand why they didn't cry out. The house was quiet and no one heard a sound."

Daniel's parents, Paul and Debby Gibbs, who live near by, spent the day at the Rogers's semi-detached house. "They are devastated like we are," Mr Rogers said. Police were yesterday waiting for post-mortem examinations on the children, but Detective Inspector Paul Lazell stressed that they regarded the deaths as a "tragic accident" and said that the parents had not behaved negligently.

Officers believe the children strangled themselves after one fell off the bunk bed. The scarf was wound too tightly around their necks to allow them to free themselves.

Detectives thought the children might have copied a hanging scene shown in *Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves*, which was broadcast on Bank Holiday Monday. Mr Gibbs said: "I can definitely say that had nothing to do with it. They hadn't watched that film. They were just kids larking about."

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The Spice Girls "the advantage with them," George Harrison said, "is that you can watch them with the sound off"

Beatle scorns 'boring' modern pop groups

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE former Beatle George Harrison has launched a vitriolic attack on modern British pop bands, describing groups such as U2, Texas and Oasis as "rubbish" and claiming that the best thing about the Spice Girls is that "you can watch them with the sound turned off".

In an interview with the French newspaper *Le Figaro* published yesterday, Harrison, 54, lambasts the egotism of modern pop stars, the commercialism of the music industry and the power of record companies.

The music of Oasis, U2 and Texas is "rubbish" and "not very interesting", he told his interviewer, Jen-Luc Wachthausen. "It's alright if you're 14 years old. I prefer to listen to [Bob] Dylan," he said.

One thing irritates me about current music: everything is based on ego. Look at a group like U2. Bono and his band are so egocentric. It's horrible ... the more you shout, the higher you jump, the bigger your hat, the more people listen to your music."

"It's like that today in the recording industry. Whatever you play, the most important thing is to sell and make money. It's got nothing to do with talent."

Harrison conceded that the Beatles may have had their fair share of hype but he added: "Everything has got out of proportion today with the power of the record companies, the media, television, radio ... it's staggering."

Harrison's broadside comes less than a year after he

criticised Liam Gallagher of the Beatles-inspired Oasis, pointing out that the group would be better off and more in tune without "the silly one".

In contrast to modern British groups, Harrison maintained that the Beatles' music appealed to different generations and continued to attract new fans: "aged 7 to 77".

Today adolescents and even children still adore *Yellow Submarine*. That gives me comfort and proves that the band will last forever," he said. "Will U2 be remembered in 30 years? And the Spice Girls? I doubt it," he added.

Asked what he would do if he was aged 20 today, Harrison joked: "I would certainly produce the Spice Girls. If I knew at 20 what I know now, it would be fabulous. I would certainly retire before becoming famous."

The interview suggests that Harrison's philosophy, and perhaps his musical tastes, have changed little since the 1970s.

He described his forthcoming album with Ravi Shankar, the sitar player, as "a small contribution to peace. That is the subject of this album: love and peace."

Harrison said he was still writing songs and might make a new album in the winter. "I would really like to record again" with the Travelling Wilburys — alas, without Roy Orbison — but Bob Dylan is ill: "I must see him soon."

His recipe for understanding the world, achieving inner peace and presumably learning to tolerate the Spice Girls,

remains unchanged. "My advice is to plunge into meditation which gives the keys, making God's signs comprehensible in order to open the door to understanding. To pass from ignorance to knowledge, from the darkness into light."

Dylan and the Pope, page 15

• Everything is based on ego. Whatever you play, the most important thing is to sell and make money. It's got nothing to do with talent •



George Harrison, left, said the music of Oasis, above, and Texas, below, was "rubbish" and that Oasis would be better off without Liam Gallagher



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Austria 'sterilises mentally handicapped women'

FROM ROGER BOVES
IN BONN

AUSTRIAN politicians yesterday plunged into the heated European debate about eugenics, claiming that the country was still forcing mentally handicapped women to be sterilised.

Theresa Haidlmayr, the Green spokeswoman, said that there were no legal obstructions in Austria to

sterilising certain categories of patient. Some 70 per cent of handicapped women had been treated in this way, she said, although the party admits there are no reliable statistics.

The comments came as both Switzerland and Norway admitted that they had, until the 1970s, also practised compulsory sterilisation on mentally handicapped or racially "unsuitable" men and women,

according to disclosures published yesterday.

Swedish revelations that 60,000 people had to undergo compulsory sterilisation over 50 years have sent historians throughout Europe searching their national medical archives for evidence incriminating or clearing their own countries.

The Swiss case is regarded as important because the Nazis used 1928 sterilisation legis-

lation from the French-speaking canton of Vaud to fashion their own 1934 laws.

"Even Hitler requested a copy of the law from the canton and from the Government in Berne as a basis for Nazi Germany's own racist laws," said Hans Ulrich Jost, Lausanne history professor.

Switzerland, still struggling with revelations that its banks profited from the Holocaust, was shocked by Professor

Jost's documentary proof. He found one recommendation for sterilisation for a young woman, two months pregnant, because she was described as "feeble-minded, morally weak, idiotic and promiscuous".

But the deepest concern is in Scandinavia, because the evidence is clear that compulsory sterilisation was not merely part of the racist pre-war climate but became a con-

scious feature of Social Democratic policy after the war. Sweden dropped compulsory sterilisation only in 1976, while Finland and Norway also practised it well into the 1970s. Norway sterilised about 2,000 people against their will between 1934 and 1976, according to Nils Rolf Hansen, a professor in Oslo.

Most of the victims seemed to have been drawn from socially deprived backgrounds

or were exhibiting some form of mental illness. In some cases, hospital workers refused to carry out abortions unless the women agreed to be sterilised. Boys in reform schools were sterilised before going on summer work camps, so that they would not reproduce with socially "unacceptable" Swedes.

But the sterilisation campaign also targeted racially "mixed" Swedes, including

Race and rejects page 16

WORLD SUMMARY

Olympic bombing threat

A GROUP calling itself "We Who Built Sweden" claimed responsibility yesterday for a powerful bomb explosion at a stadium in the western Swedish port of Gothenburg on Monday.

The group said that, if Stockholm is chosen next month as the venue for the 2004 Olympic Games, Sweden should prepare for a campaign of guerrilla warfare. In a faxed statement, the group said it was acting for the majority of Swedes who did not want the Olympics. "We are well organised and determined." (Reuters)

Bethlehem reopened

Jerusalem: Israeli military authorities have taken what they describe as a "calculated risk" and lifted a 28-day internal closure of Bethlehem, which has been the scene of intense unrest (Ross Dunn writes). The decision follows strong international pressure against the blockade, which has prevented Christian pilgrims visiting the birthplace of Jesus and severely disrupted the vital tourist industry.

Singer dies destitute

Athens: Sotiris Bellou, the folk singer who rose to fame in Greece in the 1950s with a song commemorating two Greek Cypriots hanged by the British, has died here, aged 76 (John Carr writes). She was reportedly destitute, not least because, for the past two years, her sharp-edged voice, reminiscent of Edith Piaf, had been silenced by throat cancer.

100 killed as boats collide

Lagos: About 100 people drowned when two wooden boats collided off Nigeria's Niger delta, a local newspaper reported. The victims were traders travelling from the oil city of Port Harcourt to Nembe in Rivers state. One of more than 70 people who survived blamed the accident on heavy rain. (Reuters)

Disco blast suspect held

Rome: Italian police have arrested a Libyan man wanted in Germany for the bombing in 1986 of a Berlin disco frequented by US soldiers in which three people died and 200 were injured. The man was named as Mubashir Abu-gasem Esm (Reuters).

Vietnamese age claim

Hanoi: Le Thi Co, a 117-year-old Vietnamese grandmother is the latest contender for the title of the world's oldest person. Earlier this month the Guinness Book of Records gave the title to a 116-year-old Canadian. (Reuters)

German dome makers seek £2m for loss of contract

BY ROGER BOVES

THE German dome-building company snubbed by Peter Mandelson has engaged a top commercial law firm in Britain to press for at least £2 million damages for the loss of the contract to build the Millennium Dome, and to maximise the Government's embarrassment in Europe.

Stephen Lock, of Lodgegate Communications, said yesterday that Herbert Smith, the commercial law practice with offices in London and Brussels, would take on the British Government and the New Millennium Experience Company for its ditching of the Koch-Hightech contract to build the skin of the roof of the Millennium Dome in Greenwich. "Basically, Peter Mandelson could spend the next one or two years in and out of courts in London and Brussels," said Mr Lock.

The firing of Mr Lock as well as the engagement of a high-court practice such as Herbert Smith suggest that the Germans are serious. There will be a three-pronged attack, say, legal sources, a claim against the British Government and the New Millennium Experience Company; a claim lodged in the European Court on the ground that European directives on procurement were breached; and a formal complaint to the European Commission.

German executives — the

company is based in Prier — were bemused by the British decision to switch from a polyester-skin dome to a Teflon-coated fibreglass roof. The company had submitted a quote for Teflon fibreglass in its original tender.

It is the world's biggest maker of fibreglass membranes, with a manufacturing capacity of three million square yards. By comparison, Japanese-owned Balfour, now set to win the order, has a capacity of 600,000 square yards. The price difference between the bids was not large, both were between £1.4 million and £1.5 million. If the Government pays even the minimum level of compensation to the Germans, then there will be little to choose between the two bids.

The switch is therefore being regarded as politically motivated by the advisers to the Germans. "Our assumption is that, in trying to distance itself from a PVC dome, the New Millennium Experience Company basically sacked the German company," said Mr Lock.

Mr Mandelson, the minister in charge of the Millennium project, has said the Government decided to use Teflon because the material was expected to last more than 25 years, providing "an enduring legacy after the end of the millennium celebrations".



Tenor Jaime Aragall will sing on opening night



The Teatro Real in 1995. It will hold its first show in nearly ten years in October

Madrid's ill-fated opera house bursts into song five years late

FROM GILES TREMELT IN MADRID

MADRID'S opera house, the Teatro Real, is nervously preparing for a grand autumn reopening nearly ten years after closing its doors for what should have been a four-year refurbishment.

The opera has had three artistic directors over the past two years. The last to leave was a Frenchman, Stéphane Lessner, who fell out with Esperanza Aguirre, the conservative Culture Minister. A musical director, conductor Antoni Ros Marba, was hired in 1989 but left after arguing with M Lessner. The conductor was six years on the payroll, earning about £600,000, with no orchestra to direct.

Bad luck also played a part. The first architect, José Manuel González de Valcarcel, died while showing journalists around in 1992. His re-

placement, Francisco Rodríguez, broke his foot shortly after taking over. Work had to be suspended when the main construction company went into receivership.

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A two-tonne glass chandelier crashed in the main auditorium in 1995. When work was deemed to be nearly completed in February this year, it was found the seats were pointing the wrong way.

The problems have now been resolved and the theatre is due to hold its first performance on October 11 with tenor Jaime Aragall and soprano María José Montiel in an all-Spanish production of *La Vida Breve*. King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia will be guests of honour on the opening night, which will draw the cream of European opera. Señora Aguirre promises that the 1,750-seat auditorium will be "the best opera house in the world".

Britain's Royal Ballet, currently homeless while the Royal Opera House undergoes refurbishment, to perform *Sleeping Beauty* in November.

Madrid's opera and ballet lovers, starved of fare for so long, have swamped the box office. All season tickets were sold in the first three days.

Belgian elite survives paedophile revolt

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

A YEAR since Belgium came close to revolt over the handling of the paedophile murders, the Government and the country's much-criticised institutions have weathered the storm without a single sacking.

Fading photographs of Julie Lejeune and Melissa Russo, the eight-year-olds starved to death in the home of Marc Dutroux, are still visible in windows, cars and shops, but the crisis over the child killings has blown over, sparing the coalition government of Jean-Luc Dehaene.

"A year on and absolutely nothing has changed," said Marc Verwilghen, the popular leader of a parliamentary inquiry which exposed incompetence and failure by the authorities which handled the case. Mr Verwilghen, a Flemish Liberal MP, is angry over the Government's failure to act on his findings.

Examining judges yesterday staged the latest confrontation between Mr Dutroux and Michele Martin, the woman he was living with, who is reported to be cooperating, describing alleged atrocities committed by the "monster of Charleroi". Ms Martin and Michel Lelievre, an alleged accomplice, are the only two of the 12 others charged in the affair to remain in custody.

The emotion of last October's "White March" in which 300,000 citizens demanded reform to the system of political patronage seems like a distant memory. Shocked by the public protests, the Government then promised reforms to answer the charge that the paedophile affair was the symptom of an indifferent and corrupt state.

Measures have been taken to confirm speculation that Mr Dutroux and his alleged accomplices enjoyed protection from high-placed figures or that they were the centre of a paedophile ring.

However, eight out of ten Belgians still believe this to be the case, according to polls.

The parliamentary inquiry is to start investigating the matter next week.

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orth Koreans
break off talks
after defectors

THE TIMES THURSDAY AUGUST 28 1997

Miners' invasion brings death to Amazon tribe

A RAGTAG army of at least 6,000 armed gold diggers and diamond hunters have invaded an Amazon rainforest reserve inhabited by Yanomami Indians and are threatening the survival of the region's most primitive and isolated tribe.

Hundreds of Yanomami Indians have fallen ill and have had to be airlifted out of the nine million hectare reserve in Brazil's northern state of Roraima as a result of the miners' incursion. The remote jungle region, which lies along the 1,800 mile border with Venezuela, is believed to be rich in unexploited natural resources.

Health workers said a sharp rise in cases of malaria, tuberculosis and pulmonary infections had been detected among the Yanomami Indians since gold and diamond prospectors, known as *garimpeiros*, set up makeshift jungle camps which are polluting and spreading disease along ecologically sensitive rivers.

"When *garimpeiros* invade Yanomami lands they plunder their crops, pollute the rivers and shoot any Indian who opposes their presence," said Claudio Esteves de Oliveira, one of three doctors working illegally in the Yanomami Commission.

"The mining pits dug along the rivers are breeding grounds for the mosquitoes which cause malaria epidemics," he said. "Drunken *garimpeiros* regularly raid the villages to rape the Yanomami girls. We have detected an alarming rise in sexually transmitted diseases, and dread to think what the outcome would be if we started to test for HIV."

Twelve Yanomami Indians were killed in confrontations with armed gold diggers this month. Three children under three and ten elderly women died from malnutrition before reaching the hospital in Boa Vista, the capital of Roraima, and the closest city in the 200 or so remote Yanomami villages scattered around the reserve.

"The gold and diamond hunters threaten us with guns and illness. They are killing my people and keep coming into our lands even though the Government promised to keep them out," said Davi Kopenawa Yanomami, a chief, during a meeting of indigenous leaders with Brazilian authorities in Boa Vista.

"Very soon the Yanomami will be

An influx of armed prospectors is threatening Brazil's primitive Yanomami tribespeople. Report and photographs by Gabriella Gamini



A Yanomami man dressed for the hunt. He is now the quarry for illegal miners

no more and the Earth will be destroyed," he said. "My people want to defend the forest from destruction. But the white men have weapons that kill faster than an arrow. The Yanomami cannot fight back against this evil."

The Brazilian Government demarcated a third of the state of Roraima as a "preservation" zone for Yanomami Indians in 1991. But its failure to enforce the zone has been criticised by local and international organisations which defend the rights of endangered tribes.

According to non-governmental organisations working in the region the situation is now "critical" and if the flow of illegal miners continues the damage could be irreversible.

"We are very concerned that the Brazilian Government has done nothing to remove *garimpeiros* working illegally in the Yanomami

area," said Richard Garside, press officer of Survival International in London.

The police and army launched Operation Free Jungle to remove 40,000 *garimpeiros* by force during a gold rush in the early 1990s. But years on the authorities stand by as a new wave of *El Dorado* seekers invade the protected region.

"It's the richest area in the land, full of gold and diamond deposits. Why should the Indians have it all?" said Pedro de Oliveira, a toothless gold digger, as he bought his supplies of rifle cartridges, shovels, buckets and alcohol in central Boa Vista.

Like thousands of others he is a migrant from exhausted mines in the poor state of Maranhao. Thousands of others come from backwater towns across the border in Venezuela — such as the Wild West style Santa Elena de Uieren — which survive on the illegal diamond trade.

They receive backing from Roraima politicians, feudal style landlords, who rely on the migrants votes and are traditionally anti-preservationist. "Being a friend of the Yanomami is like being a friend of the devil here in Boa Vista. We have to work undercover because there is a price on our heads," said Senhor Esteves de Oliveira.

A \$1.7 million fund released by the Government last year for the FUNAI — Brazil's official body for the protection of indigenous groups — to renew operations against illegal mining activity, has mysteriously vanished. Some say it was spent by the cash-strapped organisation's headquarters in Brasilia before it ever reached Roraima.

Funai blames the air force for failing to provide the American-made Buffalo aircraft needed to launch the operation to remove the miners. "The Yanomami are suffering terribly from the entry of *garimpeiros* and we want to get them out. But we have not received collaboration from the air force,"



A Yanomami girl pounds manioc in her remote village, a way of life threatened by gold fever

said Walter Blos, a FUNAI representative who is based in Boa Vista.

Missionaries and health workers who live in the Indian villages of Toototobi and Dimini, have reported seeing huge patches of forest being cut down to build clandestine landing strips for the twin-engined planes which bring miners into the jungle.

More than 55 *huts*, or bungalows, used to drill into riverbeds, have also been spotted in the area.

At least 100,000 Yanomami Indians roamed the northern Amazon basin before Spanish colonisers reached the Americas. Just over 22,000 members of the tribe survive according to recent estimates, 9,400 in Brazil and the rest in Venezuelan rainforest.

Health workers, who registered a small rise in their birth rate in 1993-1995 when mining activity was almost eradicated, warn that their population is again dwindling.



Mosquitoes bring fear of epidemic to Florida

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

CENTRAL Florida, home to the Disney World resort park, is on a mosquito "red alert" after the area was hit by swarms of insects bearing a potentially deadly strain of encephalitis.

In the last outbreak of the disease to occur in Florida, in 1990, 11 people died and 223 people were taken ill.

As a precaution against being bitten by mosquitoes, residents and visiting tourists are being advised not to venture outside at dawn or dusk, the periods at which the insects are at their most voracious.

Disney World has also discouraged the use of pools after dusk. It is handing out leaflets listing precautions to the thousands of tourists who file through its gates.

Tony Welch, a spokesman for the Florida State Health Department, said that a num-

ber of cases of encephalitis, spread by the mosquitoes, had been detected in about 40 chickens. Yesterday, two people in Brevard County, about 60 miles southeast of Orlando, were also reportedly to have been tested for the disease.

Dr. Jahangir Moini, the county's epidemiologist, said: "We predict we're going to have an outbreak. Right now we have two suspected cases, but they are not confirmed cases."

In an effort to exterminate the disease-bearing mosquitoes, lorries and aircraft will be employed on a war footing over the next week, spraying insecticide over a 1,375 square mile area believed to be most at risk.

Residents are being urged to eliminate stagnant water around their homes. They are also being advised to wear

long-sleeved clothing at all times. Mosquito repellent has also been described as de rigueur.

Symptoms of encephalitis, which attacks and destroys the body's nervous system, are headaches, a stiff neck, high fever, and constant drowsiness. Elderly people are more susceptible to the disease than the young, say doctors. State health officials advised people to go to a doctor "instantly" should they have any of these symptoms.

The proliferation of mosquitoes this year has been attributed to the heavy rainfall which has hit Florida. Besides the virus is thought to be cyclical, emerging after gaps of seven to ten years.

The ground in Central Florida is now saturated, and thus helps mosquito eggs to hatch. The eggs can remain dormant for up to seven years.

JAKE SCHOELKOPF / AP

'Sellout' taunt by Harare minister

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN HARARE

A GOVERNMENT minister stunned a judicial inquiry into fraudulent war disability payments by calling a questioner a "sellout" — guerrilla slang for a collaborator with the former white Government.

The media also interpreted a comment by Joyce Mujuru, the Rural Resources Minister, as a threat to kill the man.

Mrs Mujuru, who as a guerrilla went by the name of Teurai Ropa, or Spill Blood, was testifying on Tuesday in the first of an official enquiry into how \$44 million (£27 million) was paid out to bogus claimants.

Some, including President Mugabe's apparently healthy brother-in-law, got up to \$80,000 despite dubious combat records in the 1972-80 fight to end white rule.

Mrs Mujuru said she was given \$35,000 "by mistake" in the belief she was applying for a business loan, and had since repaid the money.

When Sobhuza Gulanidebele, a lawyer and former guerrilla, asked Mrs Mujuru why her former comrades-in-arms signed forms supporting her claim that she had suffered 55 per cent disability as a result of the war, the minister screamed: "You are a sellout. It's as if you are accusing me. If you want to be a hero from this commission you are going to get heroin."

The state-controlled media interpreted her outburst as a reference to Mr Mugabe's custom of declaring dead former guerrillas "National Heroes" and, therefore, an implied threat to kill Mr Gulanidebele. Mrs Mujuru survived the bush war "without a scratch".

Up to 90,000 former guerrillas and political detainees claim they are living in near destitution. They have been demonstrating for \$50,000 payouts, \$180 a month pensions and land. Yesterday the cash-strapped Government said it had agreed to award the veterans a \$4,220 one-off payment and a monthly pension.

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Tobacco victory brings lawyers \$1bn

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN

LAWYERS who represented the state of Florida in its recent lawsuit against the American tobacco industry could receive \$1 billion (£625 million) for their services.

The suit was settled out of court on Sunday, with "Big Tobacco" agreeing to pay the state \$1.13 billion as compensation for money spent on treating smoking-related illnesses. The payout also included a large proportion in "punitive damages".

Since they were acting on a "no win, no fee" basis, the 11 law firms which acted for Florida will receive a handsome share of the spoils. Lawton Chiles, the Governor of Florida, has been quick to point out that the settlement does not include lawyers' fees which the tobacco industry will have to pay separately.

Robert Montgomery, one of Florida's attorneys, revealed that the estimate of "at least \$1 billion" in lawyers' fees was based on a pre-trial contract which gives lawyers "25 per cent of any settlement, or verdict brought in by a jury".

Although Florida will receive \$1.13 billion, not all of that is open to assessment for contingency fees. The proportion treated as "punitive" — that which is in excess of the literal compensation for monies spent on Medicaid — is placed beyond the lawyers' grasp.

The "punitive" element is not, as yet, precisely charted, but is expected to be at least \$6.3 billion. That leaves a maximum of \$5 billion that will represent compensation, and from which the lawyers can take their cut. Split 11 ways, the firms stand to receive about \$91 million each.

Mr Montgomery said: "It sounds like a lot of money. But when you consider the number of hours, the complexity of the case, the uniqueness of the issues litigated, and the expertise required, it really is not that much money."

Before the trial, the lawyers had rejected various options, and went instead for a "25 per cent across-the-board deal".



Kim Basinger reads a statement at Rio Grande

Zoo in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as part of her campaign to draw attention to the ill-treatment of performing animals in America. The actress took up the cause after an eight-year-old African elephant was found dead from heat

as animal cruelty charges are brought against a trainer employed by the Texas-based King Royal Circus.

"These animals are kept in horrific conditions," said the actress, an animal rights activist. "They're dragged around cities suffering in the name of entertainment."



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Moscow mafia in textbook murder

RUSSIA'S publishing industry, for long the preserve of the intelligentsia, appears to have fallen prey to the country's ubiquitous mafia, after denials emerged yesterday of the gangland assassination of a successful young publisher.

Although Russians have become used to frequent accounts about the murders of bankers, prominent sportsmen and casino owners, publishers have by and large remained untouched by Russia's mobsters.

That myth was dispelled late on Tuesday when police were called to a residential street in Moscow after the contract killing of Aleksandr Krunk, commercial director of the Drofa publishing house.

Witnesses said the 29-year-old publisher was hit by two rooftop snipers as he left his home in the capital. His bodyguard returned fire with a pistol, but the killers escaped and Mr Krunk died of his wounds as he was being taken to hospital.

Drofa is Russia's leading publisher of educational liter-

Russia's underworld has turned its guns on state publishing, writes

Richard Beeston from Moscow

ature, a hugely profitable industry, given that the Government still pays for the publishing and distribution of textbooks free of charge to the nation's pupils.

The publishing house was due to have given a press conference yesterday when it was expected to announce that it had again won a multi-million-pound contract for publishing textbooks for the next academic year.

Last November Vladimir Veshnyakov, Drofa's deputy director-general, was found shot dead in a car in suburban Moscow. At the time his partner said Veshnyakov should not have moved around the city without a bodyguard, a precaution which did not protect Mr Krunk nine months later.

Police have made no head-

way in that murder investigation, and judging by their poor track record in solving contract killings it is highly unlikely that any arrests will be made in the latest shooting.

Publishing industry sources said that there were several possible suspects, ranging from rival publishers trying to cut into the lucrative market, to distributors and printers who had not been paid.

This month alone St Petersburg has witnessed two high-profile killings. Valeri Mandrykin, vice-president of the Finnish-owned oil company Neste-Sankt-Petersburg, was shot dead. Last week Mikhail Manevich, deputy governor of St Petersburg and a crusading reformer, was killed by a sniper.

In Moscow figures in the sports world have been particular targets. In April, Valentin Sych, the head of Russia's ice Hockey Federation, was shot dead. His murder was followed in June by that of Larisa Nechayeva, director of Moscow Spartak football club.

Frankly the profits involved are too small to bother killing somebody for," said one veteran publisher. "The only exception are the contracts for the Government's

school textbooks. The publishing and distribution rights are worth hundreds of millions of dollars, and as a result the mafia is heavily involved in every step of the way."

Tuesday's murder happened only a day after President Yeltsin told Yuri Skuratov, the Prosecutor-General, that he was not satisfied with the performance of the law enforcement agencies in their fight against crime.

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Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the ultra-nationalist member of the Duma, tears a burger apart at a McDonald's restaurant in Moscow yesterday, saying "this is not real meat" in a protest over the quality of imported goods



Milosevic planning to rein in Plavsic's Bosnia bandwagon

FROM TOM WALKER IN BANJA LUKA

OFFICIALS at Banja Luka's military airport said yesterday that they were preparing for a visit by President Milosevic of Yugoslavia to Republika Srpska — his first trip to Bosnia since the war.

The crisis that threatens to split the Bosnian Serb territory in two now looks certain to evolve into a regional problem. Originally a head-to-head conflict between two Bosnian Serb nationalists, President Plavsic and her predecessor, Radovan Karadzic, Western diplomats are now talking of complicated pan-Yugoslav alliances developing, sucking both Serbia and its Yugoslav Federation sister state, Montenegro, into the equation.

Mrs Plavsic kept a low profile yesterday, choosing not

to respond to the vitriol heaped on her by the internationally ostracised Republika Srpska parliament in Pale.

Instead, she met with leaders of the Serb Orthodox Church.

Another institution looks set to align itself with the Plavsic camp: she now has the police, most of the army and the Church on her side. Dr Karadzic has his empty rhetoric, giving credence by the parts of the state media he still controls — and yesterday there were reports that another state television transmitter, near Doboj, was about to switch allegiance.

United Nations sources said last night that shooting had been heard near the Doboj television transmitter. They said the town's police

station was guarded by police loyal to Dr Karadzic.

Major Chris Riley, NATO's Stabilisation Force (SFOR) spokesman, in Sarajevo, confirmed that permission had been sought for Mr Milosevic to fly into Republika Srpska.

Officials at Banja Luka's military airport, Majevi Jard, said they were preparing for the visit, and Mr Milosevic's protocol and security advisers were seen in Banja Luka.

Given Mrs Plavsic's enormous gains of the past week, and her well-known hatred of Mr Milosevic and his communist methods, the Yugoslav President will be coming on bended knee. Diplomatic rumours that have fanned out from Banja Luka from Pale talk of a bitter fallout between three men with the interna-

tional war crimes tribunal in The Hague very much on their minds.

Mr Milosevic, Dr Karadzic and his sidekick, Momcilo Krajisnik, the Serb representative on Bosnia's state presidency, all know too much about one another's wartime roles; the feeling in Banja Luka is that if one goes to The Hague, the two others will surely follow. Mrs Plavsic's anti-corruption train is hastening their ends, unless Mr Milosevic can somehow apply the brakes.

"It's entirely feasible that they're splitting," said one Western diplomat. "Karadzic is desperate to save his skin, and Krajisnik and Milosevic are under incredible pressure from the international community."

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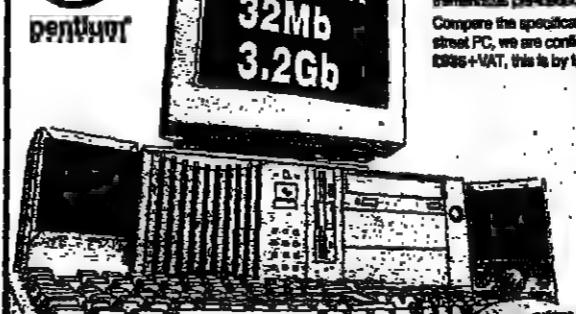
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THE TIMES THURSDAY AUGUST 28 1997

MONTserrat 13

Rescue fiasco as more return to island than go

FROM: DAVID ADAMS IN WOODLANDS, MONTserrat

BRITISH officials here admitted yesterday that a voluntary evacuation of the island which began on Saturday has not lived up to their expectations.

"We came here expecting a large evacuation that hasn't happened," said Captain David Nelson, who commands the British destroyer HMS Liverpool which has been co-ordinating the evacuation.

The Royal Navy, which was sent to Montserrat in response to increasing fears of the island's active volcano, may scale down its presence next week, handing over responsibility for the evacuation to the island's police and defence forces.

Since the evacuation began on Saturday, 45 Montserratians have left the island, although British officials say 1,000 people have registered for the scheme. When it was

first announced, the British Government said it expected that up to 3,000 Montserratians might leave the island.

Britain is to pay their air fares to the UK as well as social benefits. Islanders who wish to go to other Caribbean islands are also being offered £2,400 in financial aid.

Amid the row between the Government and the island's administration, Bernie Grant, the Labour MP for Tottenham, left yesterday for a private visit in a bid to "break the deadlock".

Mr Grant, chairman of the all-party Parliamentary group on the Caribbean, said: "There is increasing desperation in Montserrat and this has much to do with difficulties of communication, and a lack of understanding. Being from the region myself, I hope that I will be able to overcome some of these difficulties." He said

his aim was to "patch up" the quarrel between the Government and the islanders and he blamed "megaphone diplomacy" for the rift and said some of the remarks by Clare Short, International Development Secretary, had not been very helpful.

The head of Montserrat's local government, David Brandt, has criticised Britain for offering financial incentives to leave the island, rather than offering greater assistance for those who wish to stay. They are encouraging our citizens by the bait of money to go to foreign countries. We do not want our population depleted to the four winds."

Some Monserratians have returned to the island in recent days. "There seem to be more Monserratians arriving on the ferries than we are evacuating," observed one officer

aboard HMS Liverpool. "The tide has turned. Although the whole world is saying that we should leave, there are many people here who are determined to stay," said Bennett Roach, editor of the local newspaper, *The Montserrat Reporter*. Mr Roach, who also chairs the National Consultative Group, a private and public sector forum created last week to lobby for the future recovery of the island,

said that efforts by the local government to seek international support for the rebuilding of homes and businesses on the "safe zone" northern end of the island, had encouraged more people to stay.

"There is new hope now," he said.

But British officials said they would not abandon the programme and were stepping up their efforts to increase the flow of evacuees.



Scotland shivers after big eruptions

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

IF MONTserrat blows its top, Scotland can expect to feel the draught.

Two researchers have found that gales blow hardest in Edinburgh in winters after big eruptions. It is assumed to be due to climatic changes that can occur if volcanic material is blown high into the atmosphere.

Dr Alastair Dawson, of Coventry University, and Dr Kieran Hickey, of St Patrick's College in Maynooth, compared weather records with volcanic activity. They picked Edinburgh because its records date back to 1770.

After three of the biggest blasts in history, they found gales in Edinburgh were stronger than usual. Eruptions of two Indonesian volcanoes, Tambora in April 1815 and Krakatoa in August 1883, produced winters in which gales exceeded force 7 for 70 days a year. After Mexico's El Chichón erupted twice in 1982, Edinburgh experienced gales for more than 50 days.

New body to review policy on territories

Kuala Lumpur: Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, has ordered a thorough review of British policy towards dependent territories (David Wainwright).

Speaking shortly after the first meeting of the new multi-ministry task force, he said there had been policy flaws in the handling of the Montserrat crisis. But the fault lay with a failure of communication rather than with policy. That had had the effect of islanders being unaware of the choices available under the British Government's relief programme.

The review will extend over the next six months and culminate in a comprehensive new policy to be announced at

a dependent territories conference next February. The new policy is expected to result in tailor-made portfolios for each territory.

Mr Cook said the Foreign Office had been distracted by the return of Hong Kong to Chinese control and had been unable to devote the necessary resources to the remaining territories.

Remote outposts likely to stay pink on the map

BY MICHAEL BINNION, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

SCATTERED across the globe, Britain's 13 dependent territories are all that remain of an empire that once encompassed a quarter of the world. Acquired largely by accident as war booty, shipping stations or chance discoveries, the tiny possessions are among the most remote inhabited places.

Yet as Montserrat has shown, these British dots on the map can still cause political and economic embarrassment. Most are poor, many are in trouble and several are hovering on the verge of viability. All feel they have been neglected by a mother country eager to shirk its imperial legacy. Indeed, in Britain's long colonial history the shabby treatment of these smallest possessions is a sad end to the remarkably peaceful transition of the old empire into a Commonwealth of independent nations.

With the handover of Hong Kong there are fewer than 200,000 people in all the remaining territories. None is likely to demand independence, yet most are unhappy with their present status.

With neither full integration into Britain nor real representative self-government, they are in a curious constitutional limbo.

They rely on Britain for aid, defence and foreign affairs. But while successive Whitehall governments have tried to broaden internal self-government, the British governors, in the end, have the final say.

The sun is unlikely to set on these 13 territories. The oldest and now by far the largest is Bermuda, founded in 1609.

and comprising 60,000 people. Five are in the Caribbean: Montserrat, now suffering from the volcanic eruption; Anguilla, the most northerly of the Leeward Islands; the Turks and Caicos Islands; part of the Bahamas chain; the Cayman Islands, an offshore banking centre with a per capita income of \$28,500 (£17,800); and the British Virgin Islands.

Two territories are virtually uninhabited: the Indian Ocean Territory, which is now important as a naval base for the Americans at Diego Garcia; and British Antarctic Territory, comprising 656,000 square miles inhabited by only 70 researchers. In South Atlantic are also the Falkland Islands, with a population of only 2,100 but an enormous income from fish licensing and a likely bonanza from offshore oil. In addition there is St Helena, suffering high unemployment. Gibraltar is the only territory in Europe, a tiny peninsula of 2.5 square miles with a population of 30,000.

Finally there is Pitcairn, isolated in the South Pacific and famously settled by Bounty mutineers. With a population down to 57, it has problems from intermarriage.

Unlike France, which gives its overseas territories parliamentary representation and metropolitan standards of social security, Britain does not guarantee a British standard of living. Some territories – Bermuda and the Falklands – are doing well; others, such as St Helena, are desperately poor.

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JULY 24 AUGUST 1997

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Dr Thomas Stuttaford on compulsive disorders in the young; research into CJD; high blood pressure; treating children with HIV; and more good news for drinkers

When an obsession takes over

Doctors on both sides of the Atlantic have been treating children, quite legitimately, with Prozac for several years. It is a safer drug, and quite as effective, as the older anti-depressants. They cannot understand why there has been a furor in the lay press about its use in juveniles.

Faverin, fluvoxamine maleate, is, like Prozac, a 5-HT reuptake inhibitor. It was given FDA clearance for the treatment of obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) in children and adolescents in March this year.

Many people are unaware of the increasing number of children who are showing signs of depressive illnesses, as they are unconscious of the number of juveniles who have OCD, and they are therefore untreated. In younger children this may be because parents do not know of the condition, whereas older children and adolescents deliberately hide their disturbed behavior. This concealment is, in itself, very strong and can make the child's behaviour even more abnormal.

The extent of the problem became obvious in America only after adolescents, and their parents, started to describe symptoms on the Internet. Surveys have put the incidence of OCD in children at least the same level as childhood diabetes. Before patients started, very bravely, to publicise their obsessional fears, each thought they were alone with their anxieties and ensuing compulsions.

The most common obsessions in children are fear of contamination from "germs" and hence serious ill-

ness, fear of intruders, a fixation about lucky and unlucky numbers, and unreasonable doubts about their abilities.

The most common compulsions are extravagant handwashing and cleansing rituals, a compelling desire to check, question, arrange, touch and hoard and a variety of touching rituals whether of railings, pavements or doorknobs.

Patients with OCD, including children, are by nature perfectionists and inflexible, so that they often fail to complete the tasks they set out to achieve. They are hyperconscious, obsessively preoccupied with detail, are prepared to sacrifice leisure and friendships in pursuit of a goal, and too often allow their lives to be ruled by schedules and lists. Their strict rules of behaviour can erode spontaneous generosity of the spirit, and limit instinctive demonstrations of affection. The time-consuming rituals can patients' lives and reduce their efficiency and pleasure.

Doctors and patients need to decide when a behaviour pattern becomes abnormal. A criterion is whether or not the compulsion interferes with normal life. It would not be thought abnormal, for instance, for a woman to insist on washing her hands before every meal, or for her 16-year-old daughter to spend 20 minutes a day washing her hair, but it would be considered abnormal if her husband felt compelled to wash his hands exactly 100 times a day, thereby making them red and raw, or if another child was invariably late for school as he had to soap himself 63 times precisely each morning in the shower.

It is not easy to rid children and

adolescents of time-consuming ritualistic behaviour, but the first step is to assure them that they are not alone in their troubles.

Juveniles benefit from psychotherapy, which will also help parents and the school to understand the problem. Drug treatment is an important part of therapy, particularly as some children may not respond to behaviour therapy because they may not be sophisticated enough to understand the pressures which may have brought on the OCD.

Conversely, a serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) such as Faverin, has been shown to relieve effectively many children's distress, even though they haven't understood the psychodynamics of their problem.

We all carry out checks before we go out, and sometimes more than once we make certain that the gas and electricity are turned off. If we did this several times even though the room was in darkness and the gas fire was not alight, this would be abnormal. Some people are so frightened that they might leave water, electricity or gas on that they become housebound.

Distinction, too, has to be made between children who play a game of having to touch every alternate railing, or avoid the cracks between the pavement stones, and those who genuinely expect some terrible disaster if they do not carry out a complicated pavement ritual.

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adolescents of time-consuming ritualistic behaviour, but the first step is to assure them that they are not alone in their troubles.

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New hope for HIV-infected children

THERE has been little research on the best way of treating the two-and-a-half million children throughout the world who have been infected with HIV. In Europe, 6,907 children have been diagnosed as having AIDS, about 50 per cent of these cases resulting from mother-child transmission.

This week the European Union approved the use of an anti-viral drug stavudine-D4T, marketed as Zerit, as part of combination therapy for the treatment of HIV in children over the age of three months.

Dr Gareth Tudor-Williams, senior lecturer in infectious diseases in the Department of Paediatrics at St Mary's Hospital, London, said: "D4T is available as a liquid and represents a significant addition to the drugs we have at our disposal to combat HIV. In view of D4T's high tolerability and the lack of resistance and cross-resistance to other anti-virals, together with its ability to penetrate the central nervous system, it is a logical component of combinations of drugs to use in the initial treatment of infected children."

As many as one in five people over the age of 30 has high blood pressure, and this proportion increases in older age groups. So the arrival of a new drug, Physiotens (moxonidine), which combats the condition in a new way, is bound to excite interest.

Physiotens is also free of the troublesome side-effects — which include impotence, cold hands and feet and the persistent triggering of attacks of asthma or gout — of existing treatments.

Hypertension, or raised blood pressure, is more common in men than women. It sometimes shows no symptoms in its early stages, and damage can be done without people being aware that their blood pressure is up. If left untreated, it can lead to a heart attack, heart failure or stroke. It can damage the kidneys or affect the retina at the back of the eye.

In the past 30 years treatment and prevention of high blood pressure regardless of a person's age has been one of the most important objectives of good general practice. Usu-

ally no single cause is found, although occasionally it can be shown to be the result of a hormonal abnormality, kidney damage or the interference of the blood supply to the kidneys.

Sufferers have many characteristics in common. They tend to be overweight, easily stressed and obsessive. In addition, they often have a high cholesterol level.

They are also more likely to smoke, take little exercise and be prone to non-insulin-dependent diabetes. The same features are found in someone whose sympathetic nervous system — which controls many of the body's routine operations, such as circulation, digestion and breathing — goes into overdrive.

This overdrive can result in constriction of the peripheral arteries, high blood pressure, enlargement of the heart, raised cholesterol, platelets that are too sticky, and an increased risk of stroke.

Clinical data about Physiotens was presented to the European Society of Cardiology in Stockholm earlier this week. Research has shown that whereas the most commonly used hypotensive drug combinations make diabetes more likely, Physiotens, by contrast, actually reduces incidence of the disorder.

Most people are unlikely to be aware of the concept of insulin resistance, sympathetic overdrive and their links to heart failure, hypertension, renal damage and non-insulin-dependent diabetes. But they might well be attracted to Physiotens once they learn about its lack of effect on peripheral blood vessels — this means that, while taking the treatment, they can enjoy a better sex life, may suffer less from baldness and have warmer extremities than they did with their previous pills.

Alcohol prevents leg pain

THE BENEFIT to the coronary arteries of drinking two to four standard glasses of wine a day, or its alcoholic equivalent, is now becoming generally accepted. Hitherto, there has not been the same amount of evidence to support the value of taking a daily drink in retaining a free flow of blood to the limbs.

Many patients with cardiovascular disease suffer from intermittent claudication: this is the technical term for the gripping, stitch-like pain which affects the lower limb when a person takes exercise. Characteristically, the pain goes very quickly once a person is at rest; the pain usually affects the calves, but can involve the thighs or even, rarely, the buttocks.

People with intermittent

claudication are worse in cold weather. They may then be observed pausing at regular intervals as they walk down the street, apparently preoccupied with the goods in the shop windows, whereas they are in fact only waiting for the pain in their legs to disappear before they resume their walk.

Researchers in America have studied case histories of 22,000 male doctors: The good news for doctors, and their patients, is that a modest daily intake of alcohol halves the risk of developing intermittent claudication. To be effective the drinks must be taken regularly, those doctors who only had a drink before their Sunday lunch, or at some other single point in the week, had as much intermittent claudication as teetotalers.

INSIDE SECTION

2

Men behaving badly. Geoff Brown reviews the superb new British comedy, *The Full Monty*, about Sheffield steelworkers who turn themselves into male strippers

Arts, page 33

PMT? OSTEOPOROSIS? MENOPAUSE?
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Clare Tomkins, a strict vegetarian for the past 12 years, has been stricken with a new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease

The mysteries that still surround CJD

CLARE TOMKINS, who is seriously ill with new-style Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, has been a vegetarian since 1985. The first case of BSE was diagnosed in 1986, but since the incubation period for BSE is at least five years, a certain number of people may have been infected in the late Seventies and early Eighties.

CJD is likely to have a long incubation period, of 20 to 30 years, judging by comparisons made with similar prion-transmitted diseases. There will be occasional cases before and after any epidemic, but their number does not help to predict its size.

Professor John Collinge of St Mary's Hospital, London, said that it is difficult to forecast how many people will develop CJD. It could be a few hundred, but it might be hundreds of thousands.

About half the population has the genetic make-up which could make them vulnerable to CJD. The few cases that have been confirmed so far suggest that young people may be more susceptible. If this is confirmed, it could be because the disease has a shorter incubation period in youth, or because of different dietary habits. Professor Collinge said:

"Research so far does not support difference in diet in different age groups as the explanation for the number of young people with new-style CJD."

It is also unknown whether people fall prey because of the overall amount of infected bovine material eaten, or whether a burger binge might deliver the large single dose sufficient to induce an infection.

Exciting new drug stops the pulse racing

AS many as one in five people over the age of 30 has high blood pressure, and this proportion increases in older age groups. So the arrival of a new drug, Physiotens (moxonidine), which combats the condition in a new way, is bound to excite interest.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES
The Sunday Times Magazine

Who, me? The new leader of the Conservative party?

Don't you think I should learn to walk before I run?

Well, okay. But, hey, not so fast. Whoa, don't push.

THE MAKING OF HAGUE

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

The mysteries
that still
surround CJD

THE TIMES THURSDAY AUGUST 28 1997

Knocking on the pontiff's door

In his first interview after his near fatal heart disease, Bob Dylan looks forward to meeting the Pope. Tunku Varadarajan reports

Elvis Presley hotheads should bury their last delusions. The King is dead, it's official, Bob Dylan has said so.

In the first interview since his "never-ending tour" was derailed last May by histoplasmosis, a potentially fatal heart disease, causing him to cancel concerts in Britain and Ireland, Dylan joked blackly with an interviewer from USA Today about his brush with the afterlife: "I really thought I'd be seeing Elvis soon."

"I was off my feet for six weeks. I was unable to walk around. When I got out of hospital, I could hardly walk around my yard. I had to stay in bed and sleep all the time. I guess it's a slow process of recuperation. There's no way to flush it out. It leaves on its own."

But the histoplasmosis did at last leave, and the 56-year-old singer did not see Elvis. Instead, he will shortly be seeing another great man, the Pope. The Vatican has announced that he will perform before the pontiff on September 27 at the World Eucharist Congress in Bologna. The opaque nature of Dylan's response will not disappoint the legions who still crave for cryptic crumbs from the singer's table: "The Pope, huh? I guess if the Vatican is reporting it, it must be happening."

Monsignor Ernesto Vecchi, head of the organisational committee of the Bologna gig, said: "I believe Bob Dylan has recently moved towards Christianity." Dylan, in fact, has recently moved away from the faith, having embraced it in the late Seventies and early Eighties.

His explicit God-bumping phase, which gave rise to such musical duds as *Saved*, has now been quietly filed away in the archives. Dylan today embraces a looser, more secular other-worldliness, far removed from the time when he sang such lines as "Man gave names to all the animals", which had all-but die-hard fans reaching for brown paper bags. His Christianity, for them, had a truly awkward flavour. Allied to no particular church or sect, it was nonetheless the sort of fundamentalist anti-Darwin stuff more suited to a rural Mississippi church than to the author of *Blowin' in the Wind*.

But Dylan had recovered completely from his evangelical virus when he was struck down in May by histoplasmosis, a fungal condition that inflames the heart's protective sac. At the time of his illness, he had been firmly on the old road again — inventive, incoherent and oddly demented. His 41st album, *Time Out of Mind*, was recorded before he

was rushed to hospital and contains almost the first fresh material composed by Dylan since his 1990 album, *Under the Red Sky*. The creative process has clearly been a tortuous one: "Up until I was sick, I was putting songs on, taking songs off," he says. "I didn't know what picture it was forming. When I got sick, I had to let it all go. I spent a lot of time making it, but I haven't really heard it in a few months."

But will the album be any good? Does it matter? Does anyone judge Dylan any more? The answer to all three questions could easily be a simple "no". Early "pirate reviews" on the Internet show some critics underwhelmed, their enthusiasm sparked more by the concept of a new Dylan recording than by its content. There are 12 new songs, with such promising titles — redolent of the "old" Dylan — as *Dirt Road Blues*.

Dylan's life has been a singular life, of course. How many popular musicians can claim to have been suggested for the Nobel Prize for Literature, as Dylan was last year by a group of American professors?

Wisława Szymborska, the Polish poetess, won in the end, and is clearly a deserving laureate. But Dylan would not have been an unworthy choice.

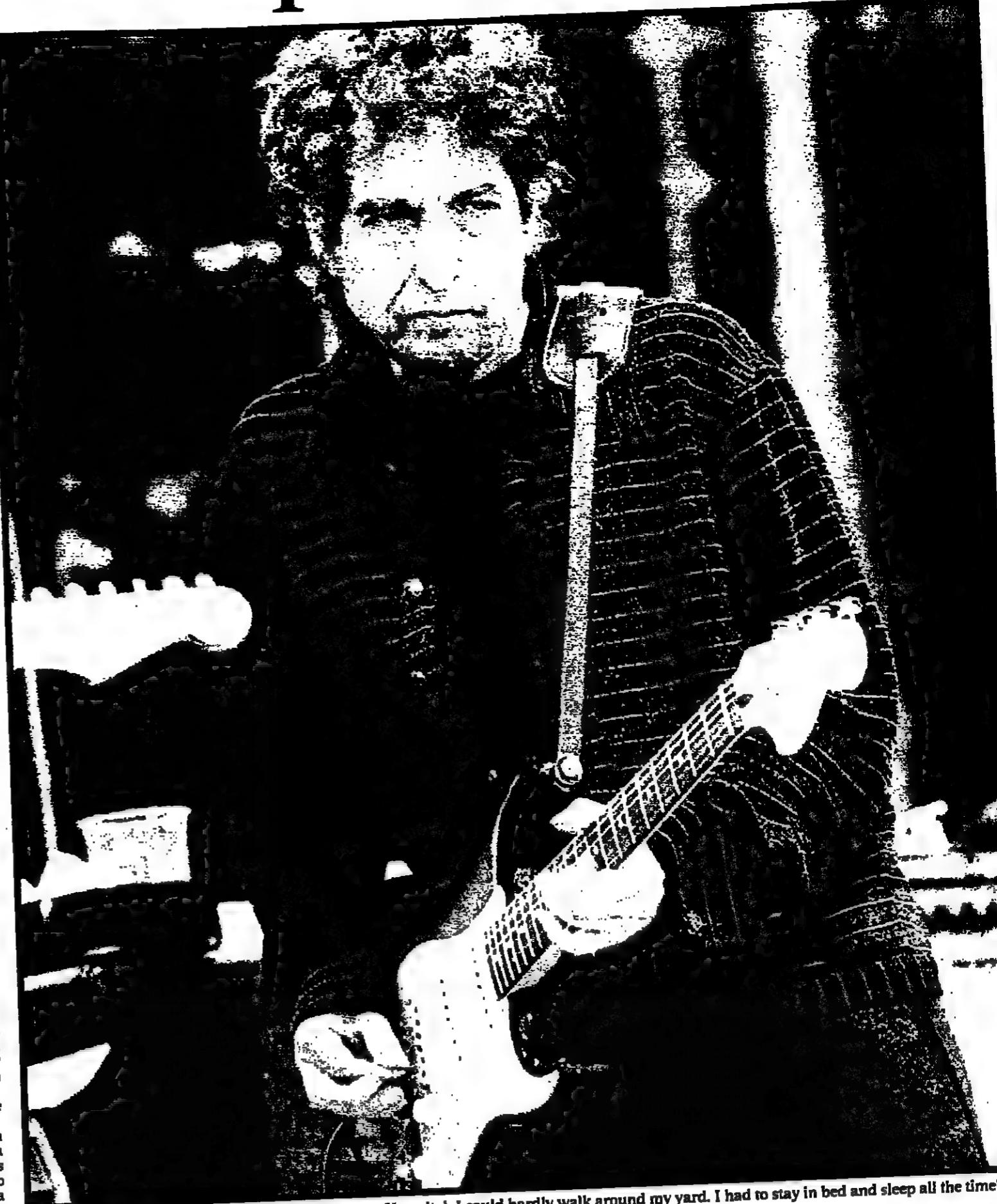
Heavyweight academics have been unsparing in their admiration. The scholar and critic Christopher Ricks has compared him with William Shakespeare, drawing parallels in his lectures between *Measure for Measure* and the song *Seven Curses*. Ricks, Professor of English at Boston University, has gone so far as to say that no one alive uses words better than Dylan does.

Frank Kermode, the distinguished Cambridge scholar, has also described Dylan's songs as "poems": "His poems have to be open, empty, inviting collusion. To write thus is to practise a very modern art." In fact, Dylan himself is in no doubt that he is a poet:

"I'm a poet! I know it! *Hope I don't blow it!*"

He hasn't blown it, although he has come very close on a number of occasions. He has changed too often, and too often the change has been a wrench, not evolution. Fans have rightly been able to throw his words back at him: "You used to ride on the chrome horse with your diploma! Who carried on his shoulder a Siamese cat? Ain't it hard when you discover that? He really wasn't where it's at..."

But now his phrasing is clear. He smiles. He sings 15 songs or more, with encores to match. He even — and this is a



"I was off my feet for six weeks. When I got out of hospital, I could hardly walk around my yard. I had to stay in bed and sleep all the time"

first — kissed a woman on the stage the other night when she evaded the heaves, jumped on stage and danced close to Dylan during a rumbustious version of *Leopard Skin Pillbox Hat*. All this is a punishing schedule for a man whose heart put him into hospital, sending editors everywhere reaching for their obituaries.

Dylan is wide awake again. The playlists of his concerts are conscious evocations of his earliest albums, of his best music. It is as if his knock on death's gate has reawakened a dormant connection to his finest hours. The lax, meandering performances of old, once thoughtlessly inflicted on long-suffering fans, have given

Mr Dylan will sing *Tamourine Man* and *Blind Willie McTell*, before moving on to *Stuck Inside of Mobile with the Memphis Blues Again*, with perhaps an encore from his latest album.

Dylan does not work that way. Mercurial to the last, his spirit is unconstant. His failing health may have slowed him down at last, but songs still flow from him, uncharted and unkempt, as if at the beck of a genie in the microphone.

He nearly saw Elvis last month. He will see the Pope next month. Who will he see after that? Himself in a mirror, perhaps older than he used to be when he was younger than that now?

The Pope, huh? I guess if the Vatican is reporting it, it must be happening.

Not Dark Yet, Standing in the Doorway and Till I Fall in Love With You.

Critics complain, however,

that Dylan is inaudible; that

(most wounding) his songs

have no fire in their belly,

that the tracks are overloaded with

too many accompanying musicians.

There would appear to be

some truth in the last

allegation, as *Time Out of Mind* features Jim Dickinson, Augie Myers, Duke Robillard and Cyndie Cashdollar. Why?

Dylan himself has sought to

explain the clutter: "It's definitely a performance record

instead of a poetic literary type

Love, hate and Mary Shelley

A major exhibition in Rome celebrates the turbulent life of Frankenstein's creator. Richard Owen reports

"They've heard of Frankenstein, but not of her. You wonder who people think did write it — some Hollywood screen-writer, perhaps."

A Newcastle girl, Payling, 31, worked for a year at the Maritime Museum at Greenwich after graduating from Oxford, then spent three years learning accountancy in the City. She became number two in the finance department of the Royal Opera House, then transferred to the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

When she applied for the Rome job, she thought she would be "either a highly appropriate candidate or a highly inappropriate one. I wasn't sure which". It was her studies in English literature at Wadham College that drew her to the Romantic poets, and to *Frankenstein*, which she still finds "very powerful".

The novel "bursts with ideas about humanity overreaching itself by playing God. It's also about taking responsibility for one's actions, which Victor

Frankenstein as a scientist fails to do."

Mary Shelley took many of her ideas from her parents: her mother was Mary Wollstonecraft, author of *Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, while Godwin was author of the libertarian *Inquiry Concerning Political Justice*.

Claire published very little, but was a prolific letter-writer and kept a journal, touched with malice and wit.

The great unanswered question is whether Shelley and Claire were lovers. From the beginning, all three were inseparable. Both girls were 16 when they encountered the 22-year-old Shelley, who had come to see Godwin, whose libertarian ideas he fervently admired. He fell head over heels in love with Mary, an "English Rose". But Claire, the dark-eyed daughter by a previous relationship of Godwin with the mysterious Mrs Clairmont, was also "bowled over by this fiery young man full of revolutionary Godwinian ideas". Payling notes. Everywhere Shelley and Mary went, Claire went too.

Shelley was already married, but in 1814 he eloped with Mary to the Continent — and Claire came, too. Shelley's first wife Harriet subsequently drowned herself in the Serpentine. Back in England, Claire detached herself from her sister and Shelley long enough to embark on an affair with Byron, by whom she had a child, Allegra.

They're that they may have been physically intimate. "I am struck by letters in which Shelley writes to Claire about making arrangements but deliberately excludes his wife."

She says: "I find their lives terribly sad. On the other hand, they had real compensations in that brief time with Shelley and Byron between 1814 and 1822. After all when Shelley drowned, Mary was still only 25, and Claire 24."

The rest was duller. Mary returned to Kentish Town, writing books and creating the Shelley legend by overseeing publication of his collected poems. She died in 1851 and is buried in Bournemouth. Claire went to Russia as a governess, lived in Vienna, Dresden and London, and finally retired to Florence, where she died in genteel poverty in 1879 surviving Mary by nearly three decades, and allegedly keeping Shelley's love letters under lock and key.

Claire never married, allegedly because of Byron, saying her passion for him had "wasted and ruined my heart as if it had been scorched by a thousand lightnings... I was the victim of a happy passion which, like all things perfect in its kind, was fleeting. Mine lasted only ten minutes, but those ten minutes have discomposed the rest of my life".

Could a suspicion that Shelley and Claire were a bit too close have prompted this outburst? Mary was often pregnant: she had four children by Shelley. She also had numerous miscarriages. Meanwhile, Claire and Shelley spent a great deal of time together, including a long trip to Venice. It was then Payling became.

"And this is how I prefer to think of them," says Catherine. "not feuding in old age, but writing, creating, inspiring Mary as the pretty English rose, and Claire the dark-eyed Southern beauty whose irresistible air of sexual availability swept Byron off his feet. It was then Payling became.

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LOUSE UPON A WHEEL

Do not make a martyr of the MI5 man who sold secrets

A former MI5 agent, David Shayler, has earned his 15 minutes of infamy with a series of allegations about the intelligence agency he once served. It reflects no credit on the security service that it ever recruited him — even during a time when, quite properly, it was attempting to broaden the experience and range of its candidates. Mr Shayler had already provided ample evidence of his own untrustworthiness and unsuitability for intelligence work. It is the agency's failure to see this which will damage it most.

In every other respect his revelations and criticisms are either obvious, misleading or inconsequential. There will be an understandable clamour to see him prosecuted; but the recipient of his broken confidences was a newspaper and not the KGB. Care should be taken before wielding an instrument as blunt as the law, which could easily compound the damage done as allow an example to be made.

Mr Shayler has used his conscience as a convenient excuse for his actions. He claims to have been motivated by anger at the agency's inefficiency and determination to see it reformed. These are risible excuses for a venal action. Was the best way of bringing matters to the attention of the relevant authorities really to negotiate a deal with *The Mail on Sunday*? Was that the only effective way of alerting Jack Straw? Is it necessary to plan to publish a book to underline the point?

Morally, Mr Shayler stands on the shakiest of ground and in the most dubious of company. Legally, there is a *prima facie* case for prosecution under the Official Secrets Act. Prosecution may, however, be unwise. Scotland Yard has a duty to investigate but the decision on whether prosecution is in the national interest rests with the Attorney-General, John Morris. It is an awkward test for the new Government: if Mr Shayler is not pursued through the courts, a signal may be sent to other agents

denied promotion that a lucrative future in publishing awaits. The unhappy consequences for the SAS of a stream of "inside" accounts stands as a warning. But the consequences of breaking Mr Shayler like a louse upon a wheel could be unhappier still.

The example of Sir Robert Armstrong admitting to being "economical with the truth" in an Australian courtroom during the *Spycatcher* trial will incite civil servants to advise against more dirty linen being washed in front of the public gallery. A court case could become a book-selling circus for Mr Shayler. It could also expose the agency's representatives to a public cross-examination which would be keenly followed in Belfast and Beirut. The deterrent effect is, in any case, probably minimal. Anyone intelligent enough to work at a senior level in MI5 will know the money to be made from betrayal. They are constrained not by the threat of the courts but duty to the realm.

Establishing that agents have a sense of duty, so conspicuously absent in Mr Shayler's case, is the job of the veterans. The appropriate method for politicians to make their views known of this vitiating failure is through the recently-constituted Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliament. The committee's powers to call for people and papers are wide-ranging. Its members will be able to judge Mr Shayler's allegation that the agency is crippled by bureaucracy. They should be able to consider the appropriateness of monitoring subversion in the light of the real Cold War threat and the successful penetration of British institutions by fellow travellers. They should also be able to judge maturely if it is bureaucracy alone that allowed the IRA to operate on the British mainland. The available evidence suggests that answering those questions may not take too long. Time may then properly be devoted to asking how best to balance more broadly-based recruitment with a commitment to confidentiality.

The Montserratian politicians have been reluctant to recognise that they may have to abandon their freedom while the British Government has been reluctant to impose its will by, for example, suspending the Constitution to speed up the decision-making process. Alas, it seems to have needed the deaths in June (report, "Volcano islanders fear new eruption as toll rises to 23", June 30) to bring home both the gravity and urgency of the situation.

The division of responsibility between the newly named Department for International Development and the Foreign Office since May has not helped, and the interdepartmental group (report, August 26) should have been set up long ago by the previous Government (as was done for the rehabilitation of the Falklands, in which I was also involved). It is hardly surprising that Montserrat's third Chief Minister in two years, David Brandt, a highly political and able man, should make the demands which Clare Short finds so unrealistic. It took the Falklands War to change 150 years of benign neglect there.

If Montserrat is to continue as a community it can scarcely do so without an airport, adequate and safe medical services, sufficient good housing and supporting infrastructure. If the island has to be abandoned, then the response by way of funds for travel and resettlement must also be generous.

Montserrat has been a lesson in dependent territories administration which this new Government would do well to take seriously.

Yours etc,
JOHN MITCHELL
(Chairman, Energy and Environment Programme),
Royal Institute of International Affairs,
10 St James's Square, SW1.

August 26

UNCONSTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT

A Korean joker to bolster a weak American hand

Jang Seung Gil, North Korea's ambassador to Egypt, is not the most senior member of the regime to have defected. Formally, he is outranked by Hwang Jang Yop, the veteran ideologue and "number 2" in the party hierarchy who is now mystifying defectors in Seoul. But, in terms of the current intelligence likely to be in his possession, Mr Jang is by far the most important source ever to escape to America.

Mr Hwang is now thought to have been marginalised from the regime's inner circles for some years. Mr Jang, by contrast, was not only close to Kim Jong Il by virtue of his marriage to one of the "dear leaders'" favourite actresses, but had a pivotal role in the most internationally sensitive area of North Korean policy, its secretive exports of ballistic missiles to the Middle East.

Mr Jang was vice-foreign minister in charge of the Middle East before becoming ambassador to the country which North Korea has made its headquarters in the region. He may not be able to shed much light on the reasons for Kim Jong Il's mysterious failure, more than three years after his father's death, to be named to the positions of President and chairman of the ruling Workers Party. But on the proliferation of these extremely destabilising weapons and weapons technologies, of which North Korea is believed by the CIA to be the key supplier to Iran, Libya, Iraq and Syria as well as Egypt, he should possess detailed information of great strategic importance.

The Clinton Administration might have been expected to be pleased by this. Instead, in a now-traditional attempt to save one of the world's ugliest faces, it stressed that Washington read into this defection no symptoms of political disarray in Pyongyang. There was, the State Department insisted, no reason why it should stop either of two scheduled sets of negotiations, on missile proliferation and the four-party Korean peace talks.

Not for the first time, America received no reward for its care. North Korea pulled out

of the missile talks yesterday as they were about to start — and, in an added gesture of defiance, announced that it was withdrawing from the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights following criticism of its practice of detaining huge numbers of its people in concentration camps.

The first decision should be read as confirmation that Mr Jang is in a position to furnish the US with evidence that North Korea has no intention of facing. The second bin of political theatre is consistent with North Korea's truculent attitude to the contacts with the outside world forced upon it by economic crisis and life-threatening food shortages. On past form, the US will shrug, keep trying for peace talks and keep food aid flowing despite North Korea's refusal to permit proper foreign monitoring of what happens to it.

Pyongyang gets away with conduct that would not be tolerated in others for one reason — the threat that unpredictable regimes pose to security in Asia. US policy is dominated by two fears — of a nuclear-armed North Korea, and of an Armageddon staged by rulers who, sensing their grip on power weakened by domestic disaster, could plunge the peninsula into war. North Korea understands this perfectly and tweaks US and South Korean nerves. Military parades pledge loyalty to the regime "in the spirit of human bombs and suicidal attack"; military pinpricks punctuate each insincere nod in the direction of talks. With menaces it demands food aid; and by feeding the starving, the West frees funds for North Korea to spend on developing a new 3,500-kilometre range missile, the Taepodong, to add to the arsenal sold to the West's enemies.

The one gain is the halting of nuclear proliferation if, as US believe, North Korea is keeping the bargain so expensively struck by the West. But Washington must hope that Mr Jang can help it check the ballistic missiles programme as well; for it is these weapons above all that make North Korea the most dangerous country on earth.

My ten-year-old son would play football from dawn till dusk in all weather if permitted, and I do allow him a bit of personal freedom to go out and play. I don't feel at all guilty, because I trust him, and his friends to behave themselves, but I do worry about him, and lecture him continually about the need to be alert about

strangers and let me know where he is and to come home on time, and so on.

The parents and families of children who do come to harm at the hands of strangers should not be made to feel guilty on top of their grief. The murder of Thomas Marshall is tragic indeed, but it would be dreadful if such thankfully rare circumstances led to children being kept indoors throughout the holidays and weekends all the time.

In the long term, what message would it give them about the world? That there are absolutely no adults that you can trust?

Yours sincerely,
FRANCES RUSSELL,
33 Ridley Avenue, Ealing, W13.
frances.russell@osct.dti.gov.uk
August 27

UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY

Libya is still best left to the lion and the lizard

Libya scarcely flaunts itself as a holiday destination. Jealously governed by a dictatorship, subject to UN sanctions and with all diplomatic links severed with the West, it is a notorious sponsor of international terrorism. Yet this pariah state is now investigating possibilities of opening up its borders to tourism. A London firm of consultants has been approached for advice.

Its classical ruins and desert landscapes are an archaeologist's delight, from the magnificent Roman remains at Lepcis Magna and Sabratha to the imposing Greek sites at Cyrene and Apollonia. These have been protected from erosion by long entombment in dry desert sands and are, as yet, unravaged by the tourist trade. Indeed, many ruins have only recently been discovered. The Roman villa at Silene, for instance, was excavated a mere ten years ago.

Even more ancient are the wondrous cave paintings of the Acacus mountains — thought to be some 10,000 years old — and more abundant and more lovely even than the murals which millions of film goers admired in *The English Patient*. Anthony Minghella's hit has whetted the taste for

desert lands. But cultural travellers should be aware that Libya is an inhospitable state.

Visas can take several months to obtain. Travel between sites can take many days. Internal flights are not advisable; embargoes on the import of spare aircraft parts make the national airline untrustworthy. And in medical or other emergencies, getting out of Libya quickly is extremely difficult. UN sanctions prohibit any international flights.

Colonel Gaddafi, long indifferent to world opinion, is seeking to diversify the oil-based economy of his country. But it will take radical changes in the political climate before the average sun-seeker is basking along Libya's Mediterranean coastline. This is a restrictive state. Harsh penalties are imposed on those drinking alcohol, dressing too scantily or wielding a camera indiscriminately.

Those who yearn to see Libya's cultural heritage should be patient. All but the most desperate or determined should wait another few years before they visit. The duration of the current regime is as nothing compared to the antiquity of these sites.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Montserrat lesson for Government

From Mr David Taylor

Sir, The confusion which continues to characterise the British Government's handling of the Montserrat situation (leading articles, August 21, 25) is sadly a reflection of the extent to which the small remaining Caribbean Dependent Territories have become marginalised in government planning and thinking. They only become of concern to British governments of both parties when they cause embarrassment to ministers. For the rest of the time they are neither very well run nor very well resourced.

I was Governor of Montserrat from 1990 to 1993. The people of Montserrat, like those of the other Caribbean Dependent Territories, have wished to remain British partly because their island is of doubtful viability as an independent unit but also because they recognise the limitations of their own elected Government and they look not unreasonably, to the British Government to be particularly focused, generous and concerned in its assistance to them in time of trial.

In the event the Montserratians do not seem to have been well served either by their own Government or ours. Their own Government has over the two years since the volcano began to erupt been indecisive and vacillating in exercising the large measure of responsibility devoted to it since the 1980s. Both Governments seem to have had difficulty in deciding whether they are dealing with a short-term emergency or a long-developing problem, producing inevitable delays in the delivery of aid.

The Montserratian politicians have been reluctant to recognise that they may have to abandon their freedom while the British Government has been reluctant to impose its will by, for example, suspending the Constitution to speed up the decision-making process. Alas, it seems to have needed the deaths in June (report, "Volcano islanders fear new eruption as toll rises to 23", June 30) to bring home both the gravity and urgency of the situation.

The division of responsibility between the newly named Department for International Development and the Foreign Office since May has not helped, and the interdepartmental group (report, August 26) should have been set up long ago by the previous Government (as was done for the rehabilitation of the Falklands, in which I was also involved). It is hardly surprising that Montserrat's third Chief Minister in two years, David Brandt, a highly political and able man, should make the demands which Clare Short finds so unrealistic. It took the Falklands War to change 150 years of benign neglect there.

If Montserrat is to continue as a community it can scarcely do so without an airport, adequate and safe medical services, sufficient good housing and supporting infrastructure. If the island has to be abandoned, then the response by way of funds for travel and resettlement must also be generous.

Montserrat has been a lesson in dependent territories administration which this new Government would do well to take seriously.

Yours etc,
JOHN MITCHELL
(Chairman, Energy and Environment Programme),
Royal Institute of International Affairs,
10 St James's Square, SW1.

August 26

MI5 surveillance and need to review secret service role

From the Director of Liberty

Sir, The surveillance by MI5 of Jack Straw, now the Home Secretary, and of Peter Mandelson and others in the 1970s raises real concerns (reports, August 25, 26). Liberty, then the National Council for Civil Liberties, was subject to similar surveillance by MI5, as you also reported, and as a result of our complaint to the European Commission on Human Rights on behalf of Patricia Hewitt and Harriet Harman, the Government brought forward the Security Service Act 1989 which imposed the first elements of legal control over MI5.

Although the above examples are from some time ago both the controls in the 1989 Act and those in the subsequent legislation remain inadequate. The committee of parliamentarians set up to oversee all the secret services is hampered by being prevented from considering "operational" matters. The complaints mechanism, which was also set up by the legislation, works in secret; does not allow the complainant to see any of the documents, evidence or suspicions; can in effect only rule against MI5 if its decision to bug and tap was "perverse", and cannot give reasons for its decisions. Since its creation it has never upheld a single complaint.

Stronger statutory controls on surveillance are necessary because of the absence of any general right to privacy which, if it existed, would provide some protection. The incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law will provide such a general right. However, the revelations 12 years

ago of a former MI5 official, Ms Cathy Massiter, showed that individuals like Harriet Harman, the present Secretary of State for Social Security, had been targeted, together with Patricia Hewitt, her colleague in the then National Council for Civil Liberties and now a Labour MP herself. And whatever the full truth of the statements by Peter Wright (whose integrity was hardly on the same level as that of Ms Massiter) it is, I think, pretty clear that an element within MI5 was totally out of control in the 1970s and that such officials were far more motivated by political spite and malice against a Labour Government than by carrying out the duties for which they were supposedly employed.

The present intelligence and security committee, established in the last Parliament and now reappointed, is not at all an adequate means of parliamentary scrutiny. Apart from other shortcomings, it reports annually to the Prime Minister and not to Parliament itself. The arguments against a more effective form of parliamentary scrutiny are much the same as were used for years against any form of parliamentary monitoring, prior to the formation of the present committee.

I hope that in Government my party will seriously consider putting into effect what we argued for in opposition.

Yours etc,
DAVID WINNICK,
House of Commons,
August 27

commercial interest in reducing the overall consumption of energy. Indeed they retain every incentive to increase demand; it is much easier to retain margins in a growing, rather than shrinking, market.

The Government's target is to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide — the main gas altering our climate — by 20 per cent on 1990 levels by the year 2010. Speaking in the Commons in June, the Prime Minister said the "single best thing" we can do to achieve this is to improve energy efficiency.

It is difficult to see how, without major diversification, BP can much to assist the nation to achieve this objective without seriously damaging its profitability.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW WARREN,
Director, Association for the Conservation of Energy,
Westgate House, Prebend Street, N1.

From Mr W. R. Pickering

Sir, What brand of petrol and oil did Greenpeace use for the Zodiac inflatables when boarding BP's oil rig (report, August 20)?

Yours faithfully,
W. R. PICKERING,
Augusta House, 44 Harborne Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Rats in the cistern

From Mr Brian Read

Sir, For the source of the "fat rat" found by Mr Peter Tanner when he lifted the seat of his upstairs loo (letter, August 26) I suggest he interrogates any school-age son or nephew in the household. An ordinary rat would have leapt out of that loo at high speed when the cover was lifted.

Ordinary rats are not "fat". A domesticated pet rat is usually overweight, sluggish and trustful. It is sad that such an animal was flushed away. I suspect that the poor creature, if it has survived, is now desperately seeking food in the darkness of Mr Tanner's house drains.

This is perhaps a case where the RSPCA should have been called in, not Thames Water.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN READ,
50 St Mark's Road,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.
brian@ahier.demon.co.uk
August 26

Tills apart

From Mr Peter Gladstone

Sir, Your obituary of Captain William McVicar (August 22) recorded his epic journey in a lifeboat to the Brazilian coast after the attack on the *SS Britannia* on March 25, 1941.

I was a civilian passenger on the *Britannia*, which had left Liverpool on March 12, hoping to reach Calcutta in about six weeks' time to take up a position as assistant to the general manager of the India branch of a worldwide drug research company.

Of the *Britannia*'s other lifeboats, one, containing about eighty people, was riddled with shrapnel and sank. Another was picked up on the following day by a ship bound for India. Another was taken to Tenerife and the personnel repatriated.

One lifeboat containing 57 people, including myself, was picked up by the *SS Rangoon* bound for Buenos Aires on the evening of March 28. On reaching Montevideo those rescued were repatriated, with one exception — myself. My company, who had all but given up for lost, would not risk another Atlantic crossing.

The *Britannia* is stirring up considerable disquiet; it is devoutly to be hoped that the Commons and the Lords, to whom it now passes, will not allow it to go forward.

Yours faithfully,
PETER GLADSTONE,
Fasque, Fettercairn, Kincardineshire.
pscotland@wol.com
August 26

Motor madness

From Dr John H. Greensmith

Sir, I see someone's trying to sell the car registration number P5 YCO (Car 97, August 23) for "in excess of £25,000".

The search is really on for someone with more money than sense.

THE TIMES THURSDAY AUGUST 28 1997

OBITUARIES

Colonel Hans von Luck, wartime Panzer leader, died in Hamburg on August 1 aged 86. He was born at Flensburg on July 15, 1911.

In his memoir, *Panzer Commander*, published in America in 1989, Hans von Luck recalls the astonishment he felt when, in the 1960s, he was invited to the Staff College at Camberley to lecture to young British officers on the German experience of the Normandy battle of 1944. The consciousness of having been the servant of an evil regime, doubly drummed into him through five years as a prisoner of the Russians between 1945 and 1950, made him reticent about talking of his war. But when he stood up to address his first Staff College audience, it was to hear himself described by Camberley's CO as "a fair and courageous opponent". The awkwardness passed, and he was regularly invited back.

Staff College audiences were particularly interested to hear what a German had to say about the controversial Operation Goodwood, the British 2nd Army's apparent attempt to break out of its bridgehead at Caen in July 1944. As commanding officer 125 Panzergrenadier Regiment, von Luck had played an important part in repelling the most massive Allied tank attack of the entire Normandy campaign. On one occasion he even ordered the commander of a flak battery at gunpoint not to train his 88mm guns skywards looking for aircraft, but to use them against the advancing British tanks. "Either you're a dead man or you can earn yourself a medal," von Luck told the reluctant flak commander, levelling his Luger pistol at him. Faced with this stony determination, the young officer complied, and the anti-aircraft guns became anti-tank guns, with devastating effect on the British armour.

The repulse of Goodwood brought acute disappointment verging on outrage to the Chiefs of Staff, the press and the British public, and its effects reverberate among military commentators to this day. That three complete armoured divisions — whose way forward had supposedly been eased by an immense carpet of bombs dropped by 2,000 aircraft —

should have been stopped in their tracks by vastly inferior German forces, was considered a disgrace. Tedder, Eisenhower's deputy for the NW Europe campaign, furious at the squandering of such massive air power for such limited objectives, called for Montgomery's head. Montgomery, in a perhaps retrospective adjustment of his aims, said that no breakout had been planned; Goodwood had been a "battle of position" intended to draw German forces into a war of attrition and allow the Americans to break out on the western flank of the bridgehead — which indeed they later did.

On the German side, von Luck's initiatives — besides the flak battery, he had rounded up much other artillery and got it pointing in the right direction — earned him the praise of the corps commander. He was used to such notice.

From early on in his career he had been a protege of Rommel, who in 1942 had

him

brought from the Russian front to North Africa to command his "pet" unit, the 3rd Panzer Reconnaissance Battalion. Poland, 1939; France 1940; Russia 1941-2; North Africa 1942-43; NW Europe 1944; and finally the Eastern front again just before the final collapse in 1945. von Luck had been in the thick of just about every campaign of the war.

Hans von Luck was born into the old Prussian officer class. An ancestor had fought against the Tartars in the 13th century; another had served Frederick the Great in the Seven Years War. Remarkably, given such a military background, his father was a naval officer, which accounts for von Luck's birth at Flensburg. But the father's career was an aberration. Hans von Luck went to army cadet school, from where he was posted to a cavalry regiment. But from this he was uprooted and sent to one of the first motorised battalions in the Reichswehr. At first he was disappointed not to be a cavalryman, but the move ensured that he was in, at the birth of Germany's formidable panzer forces. In Saxony in 1932 he met Erwin Rommel who trained him in infantry tactics.

In August 1939 von Luck's armoured reconnaissance regiment was on manoeuvres on the Polish frontier when it had its blank cartridges exchanged for live

ammunition. At 0450 hours on September 1, it rolled over the Polish frontier to begin what would, for von Luck, be more than five-and-a-half years of almost continual fighting. By the middle of September, with the Polish armies routed, von Luck's unit was in Warsaw.

For the invasion of France and the Low Countries in the following spring, he

found himself in a panzer division commanded by Rommel. The young company commander had already made an impression on the famous general, and when, on May 28, 1940, the commander of 37 Panzer Reconnaissance Battalion was killed in northern France, Rommel appointed him, over the heads of many more senior officers, to lead the unit.

After the close of the Tunisian campaign von Luck spent some time in Normandy where, on D-Day, he was commanding a tank regiment of 21 Panzer Division near Caen. When he saw the massed parachutists and gliders of 6 Airborne Division descending on Normandy early on June

25, 1944, he longed to counter-attack at once. But his formation was forbidden to move without a direct order from Hitler, who slept in until noon. Later, after the repulse of Goodwood, he fought his way back to the Germany's Rhine frontier and was involved in some tough fighting against the Americans in the Vosges Mountains.

Had he finished his war there, his future might have been different. But in February 1945 his panzergrenadiers were switched to the eastern front, where he was taken prisoner by the Russians in the desperate fighting of the Oder around the fortress of Kursk in April. He then faced almost five years' grim labour in the Soviet Union, first as a co-miner, then as a building worker in the Caucasus.

He was released in the winter of 1949-50, but found his home town in ruins. His private life was in ruins, too. He had formed an attachment during the war to a girl he was not then allowed to marry, because she had a Jewish great-grandparent. By the time he returned from imprisonment her circumstances had changed. They remained friends but he found a new life as a coffee merchant, spending some time in Angola. He married and fathered three sons.

His British Staff College visits brought him into touch with Major John Howard, whom, had his unit been allowed to move forward, he might well have driven off Pegasus Bridge in the small hours of D-Day. Through Howard he met the American historian and presidential biographer Stephen Ambrose who wrote a foreword to *Panzer Commander*.

Von Luck also advised the Ministry of Defence on its 1979 instruction film *Goodwood*. He was even asked to lecture on the topic to the Swedish Military College; this small neutral state regarded his July 1944 counter-attack as a classic of its kind, with a lesson for any country that might find itself subject to amphibious invasion. Howard and von Luck were often to see together, both at D-Day reunions, which initially he had been reticent about attending, and at seminars arranged by Ambrose when he was a professor at New Orleans.

His wife Regina and sons survive him.



aftermath of Dunkirk, von Luck's battalion continued the pursuit of the French Army southwards, encompassing the surrender of Fécamp without having to bombard the picturesque resort.

Von Luck's third campaign began at 4am on June 22, 1941, when Hitler launched Operation Barbarossa, the invasion of the Soviet Union. His panzer division was part of the Northern Army Group aiming for Minsk as a prelude to assaulting Moscow itself. Von Luck actually managed to insert a patrol into the suburbs of the Russian capital before counterattacks and the onset of winter flung the Germans back. By that time he knew that Rommel, in North Africa, was asking for him and, though his divisional general would not at first release him, by the spring of 1942 he was reporting to his old boss in his desert HQ.

For von Luck the fight against the British in the desert was always to be the most "sporting" contest of the war. The deep bitterness of the French campaign and the dehumanising ethos of the Russian front, were absent. He-to-and-I-to-the nature of the struggle meant that both sides got to know each other's units — sometimes each other's personalities — quite intimately. A captured German medical officer might be "swapped" for a supply of synthetic quinine of which the British were in short supply. Towards the end of the campaign, in a Tunisian desert bivouac, a bedouin suddenly came to von Luck's tent and presented him with a letter. It was from the CO Royal Dragoons and read:

Dear Major von Luck, We have had other tasks and so were unable to keep in touch with you. The war in Africa has been decided, I'm glad to say not in your favour. I should like, therefore, to thank you and all your people, in the name of my officers and men, for the fair play with which we have fought against each other on both sides. I and my battalion hope that all of us will come out of the war safe...

After the close of the Tunisian campaign von Luck spent some time in Normandy where, on D-Day, he was commanding a tank regiment of 21 Panzer Division near Caen. When he saw the massed parachutists and gliders of 6 Airborne Division descending on Normandy early on June

JOHN GUEST



John Guest, publisher, died on August 24 aged 85. He was born in Warrington, Cheshire, on October 4, 1911.

FOR ALMOST half a century, John Guest was a notable figure in English publishing, attracting to the houses for which he worked a remarkable number of established authors, who were (or were to become) his friends, as well as unknown young writers who have since made their names.

The elder son of George Edwin Guest, a well-to-do leather manufacturer, and of Jane Helen, one of the 12 children of John Boston of Liverpool, also in the leather trade, he was educated at Fettes in Edinburgh and read English at Pembroke College, Cambridge.

After a short, unhappy time in the family leather business he moved to London where, after knocking on various publishers' doors, he eventually obtained ill-paid employment, first as a proof reader and then as a junior editor in the long-established firm of Collins. On the outbreak of war in 1939 he enlisted in the Army and served in the North African and Italian campaigns as a captain in the 10th City of London Yeomanry. By then the "Rough Riders" were actually an artillery regiment, and Guest was mentioned in despatches for his service with the top.

He owned an exceptional collection of tree books, with the emphasis always on conifers. His plantings consistently combined character and aesthetic values with commercial considerations. He planted more than 200,000 trees.

Guest's concerned paternalism allowed the estate to retain a sense of continuity and community now rare in rural England. Brampton Bryan is today one of the few English villages which can still boast a blacksmith, a wheelwright and coracle-maker, not to mention the more distinguished craft of making garden gnomes.

Guest's marriage in 1959 to Susan, daughter of the diplomat Sir Roderick Barclay, brought him great happiness. He died in the room in which he was born and is survived by his wife and four sons.

His retirement, contributing much to the firm's success, was gregarious, entertaining and lively, he was an amusing raconteur whose fund of anecdotes — related with a slight but much-imitated lisp — never failed in the retelling. A repository of arcane knowledge and amusing gossip about the literary world and about encounters with such figures as Somerset Maugham and Edith Sitwell, he possessed at the same time many other interests, ranging from the study of pipe organs to the expert practice of photography, from natural history to music and the art of the Renaissance. He was widely travelled in Asia, Africa and Europe, having a particular devotion to Italy where he delighted in walking, as he did in the English countryside, with one or other of his many devoted friends.

He was unmarried.

CHRISTOPHER HARLEY

Christopher Harley, landowner, died of cancer on August 6 aged 70. He was born on December 31, 1926.

CHRISTOPHER HARLEY was a country gentleman whose family has lived at Brampton Bryan, Herefordshire, since 1309; on an estate which has not been bought or sold since the Norman Conquest. Among the family's forebears are counted a Harley who had been on the First Crusade and another who had fought at Crècy.

After taking over the management of the family property and surrounding farms in 1956, Christopher Harley supervised the restoration, preservation and modernisation of every aspect of the estate, culminating most recently in the repair of the ruined medieval castle defended by his ancestor Lady Britanna Harley during the Civil War.

This was a task for which his deep knowledge of local and family history wholly suited him. He always took great trouble in answering historical or genealogical queries from researchers or dis-



The medieval castle at Brampton Bryan, Herefordshire

tant relatives, disguising the learnedness of his replies with a gentle sense of humour and diffident manner.

Born at Brampton Bryan, Christopher Charles Harley was the second son of Major Ralph Harley (his elder brother was killed in the Second

World War). He was educated at Eton and Magdalene College, Cambridge, although his Eton career was interrupted when the school was bombed, and his mother had him brought back to Herefordshire to attend a school set up in his own home.



After qualifying as a mechanical engineer, he worked with Ricardo and Co and with International Harvester before returning to run the estate. A dedicated churchman, he served as churchwarden of his local church at Brampton Bryan for more than 30 years — occasionally taking services himself during any interregnum between appointments (he always took his responsibilities as a patron of living extremely seriously).

He was a magistrate from 1960 to 1993; a committee member of the Herefordshire County Landowners Association from 1953 to 1993, chair-

man from 1963 to 1967 and president from 1977 to 1986. He also served as a regional committee member of the National Trust from 1968 to 1993 and as chairman of the Herefordshire branch of the Royal Forestry Society from 1959 to 1968. He was a General Commissioner for Income Tax from 1962 to 1997. He followed generations of his family by serving as High Sheriff of the county in 1987-88 and was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Herefordshire in 1987.

Much of the delight which people found in Harley's company came not merely from his easy charm and modest smile, but also from his exceptionally wide range of interests and scholarship. His nickname, "Trees" Harley, was a tribute not just to his height (he was often tall) but to his passion for trees and forestry in particular. He started out as a boy by collecting pine-cones and moved on to the planting of exotic conifers. He sometimes took his hosts by surprise when, on visiting locally, he would don a boiler suit after lunch and climb a particularly fine specimen of a tree to get the best seeds from the top.

He owned an exceptional collection of tree books, with the emphasis always on conifers. His plantings consistently combined character and aesthetic values with commercial considerations. He planted more than 200,000 trees.

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All-in holidays cause upset

By LINSEY MCNEIL

THERE is mounting concern about food hygiene standards in the increasingly popular all-inclusive resorts springing up around the world.

Environmental pressure groups also claim that the developments encourage tourists to stay in their own isolated compound, cutting local people off from any potential economic benefit.

More than half the 820,000 Britons who go on holiday in the Caribbean this year will stay in hotels and developments where food, drink and entertainment are included in the package price. And similar schemes are now opening from the Far East to the Mediterranean.

Stuart Henderson, a lawyer, won compensation from the tour operator First Choice when 115 holidaymakers caught food poisoning at an all-inclusive resort in the Caribbean. Now, he claims, he is acting for further 12 groups, involving other companies, that allegedly got food poisoning at all-in resorts in the Dominican Republic earlier this year, and 140 people who became ill while at a similar resort on Margarita Island in 1995.

"We are not just talking about getting upset tummies — some of these people were quite seriously ill; some have had to be hospitalised, and up to 10 per cent have developed life-long medical problems, such as irritable bowel syndrome, as a result of unsafe food preparation in these resorts," he says.

This may be because at all-inclusive hotels meals are often buffets, where food is left

out for hours and often reheated. Also, we have evidence that in some cases tap water is used to water down drinks, and I do wonder whether costs at this type of hotel are being pared to the bone."

As hoteliers rush to convert to all-inclusives, Mr Henderson believes there could be further outbreaks of food poisoning in countries previously considered safe.

Patricia Barnett, director of the charity Tourism Concern, says the fact that those who book an all-in holiday spend little, if any, money in the country they visit is causing a rising tide of resentment in many destinations.

"All-inclusive resorts deny the local economy the opportunity to become involved in tourism," Ms Barnett says. The claim is fiercely denied by the tour operators, including the Caribbean's leading all-inclusive group, Sandals.

"We employ 4,500 local staff, buy in huge quantities of food and drink from the local farmers and we alone provide 10 per cent of Jamaica's foreign currency earnings," says Elaine Vaughan, the sales director.

"Clients in all-inclusive resorts actually spend far more on local trips, souvenirs and attractions than those in an ordinary hotel — especially if they are on a budget."

The British are particularly keen on visiting the local area, so it is simply wrong to say they do not bring benefits."

Adrian Clark, administrative director of the Tourism Society, adds: "All-inclusives offer convenience and good-quality holidays, but the



Paying their way? The Sandals resorts in Jamaica employ 4,500 local staff and buy food and drink from local farmers

downside is that holidaymakers lose their independence and they often do not go beyond their resort."

Tour operators insist that good all-in packages represent the best value for money for the holidaymaker. Prices start from as little as £399 for a week in the Caribbean.

"They offer clients a cheaper alternative to half-board packages, and they allow holiday-

makers, particularly families, to budget for their trip before they leave home," says Francis Torilla, marketing director of the holiday company Inspiration.

Flying Colours claims a holidaymaker on a two-week package to the Caribbean could save up to £1,000 on food, drink and sports facilities by staying at an all-inclusive resort. Airtours says

that a quarter of all its clients now choose all-inclusive holidays.

Tourism boards are also generally in favour of the all-inclusive concept, arguing that by lowering the overall cost of a holiday, it attracts more visitors.

News that three British women may have caught typhoid while staying at an all-inclusive resort in the Dominican Republic last

month is not expected to discourage holidaymakers from booking similar deals.

This is an unfortunate and isolated incident and as yet we don't know whether these women caught typhoid in their hotel or from a local restaurant," says Padilla Tonos, the Dominican Republic's Ambassador in London.

• The women the tour operators fear: see Saturday's travel pages.

Eurostar security checks to stay

By STEVE KEENAN

EUROSTAR passengers have been caught in a crackdown on bogus asylum-seekers at the Paris rail terminal.

A new passport check was introduced 12 days ago, slowing down the movement of passengers after ticket checks in and before security gates at Gare du Nord station.

But Eurostar officials insist they have no immediate plans to extend the current 20-minute check-in rule at Paris, despite the added security precautions. "It seems as if the new pre-board checks will stay," said the spokesman. There are also no plans to change the 10-minute check-in offered to travellers buying £370 Premium First tickets.

But heightened security at Gare du Nord could alarm passengers, particularly those on business, whose main criteria for travel is speed of check-in and travel between Paris and London.

Eurostar is locked in a battle with airlines to attract premium traffic. Up to 25 per cent of Eurostar passengers are on business, and its new Premium First fare matches that charged by airlines for fully flexible tickets.

The latest figures also show that the initial appeal of Eurostar has worn off, with airlines reporting that loss of passengers to rail has stabilised. Air France says figures to Paris are down by 22 per cent on 1994. British Airways has suffered less, down by less than 10 per cent on pre-Eurostar figures.

And while "point-to-point" figures may be down, AA and BA have seen overall traffic on the route grow as connecting traffic volumes have increased through Paris Charles de Gaulle and Heathrow airports, respectively.

Sabena reports a 47 per cent growth in traffic between the UK and Belgium in the first six months of 1997, almost entirely because of connecting traffic through Brussels.

It is generally acknowledged that Eurostar appeals mainly to business travellers from central London or within easy access to Ashford, Kent. Those west of London or flying from the regions have stuck to the airlines.

Another reason for the levelling off of losses to Eurostar, according to an Air France spokesman, is the fact that the rail service has now matched airlines on price. Eurostar's Premium First to Paris costs £370, exactly the same as AA and BA.

In the early days, Eurostar did a lot of deals on price that tempted business travellers to try out the service. Now that it costs the same, the numbers switching to rail have stabilised, "says a spokesman.



The bald eagle: one of America's rarest and most celebrated birds

BRITISH holidaymakers are being urged to boycott charter flights by airlines such as Airtrains, Britannia and Leisure International which use Orlando-Sanford airport in Florida.

The call, by conservationists in the sunshine state, follows the felling of a nest housing one of America's rarest and most celebrated birds — the bald eagle, the country's national symbol.

The Florida Audubon Society, founded in 1900 and one of America's oldest wildlife protection groups, says in the past five years the airport has changed "from a place where grass grew through the cracks in the runways into a destination for hundreds of thousands of British tourists in jumbo jets".

The airport authorities want to build more runways to handle the increased traffic, but say protesters, construction will threaten sensitive environmental areas, including wetlands and endangered species.

The society is urging holidaymakers to pick flights going to Orlando International, which it claims is more convenient for the key attractions of central Florida, including Disney World and the MGM Studios.

The dispute came to a head with the destruction of the eagle's nest, which

was in the path of one of the proposed runways.

The airport authority claims the nest was a "public safety hazard". The Audubon Society, however, insists that the airport and state wildlife officials have broken the law in allowing the felling, which took place earlier this month.

Last week the state's Game and Freshwater Fish Commission accepted that there should have been a public hearing and that a permit should have been issued for the nest destruction. The Audubon Society is considering legal action.

Members fear that other bald eagle sites in the area, called Seminole County, could be at risk. The county is home to 40 active nests and seven eaglets fledged during the 1996/97 nesting season, according to the Audubon Eagle Watch Programme and the commission.

Federal aviation statistics show that collisions between aircraft and eagles are rare. Most reported damage comes from waterfowl and gulls.

Charles Lee, the society's senior vice-president, says: "We can't figure out why the airport decided to destroy

the eagle's nest when there has never been an airliner accident with eagles in Florida. We think that all the airport officials wanted to do was concoct a bogus safety issue to justify destroying the nest and avoid having to redesign the proposed runway."

If you want to help the bald eagles, check with your prospective carrier — choose one that flies to Orlando International."

Britannia says that congestion has become so bad at the old airport that it has been forced to switch to Sanford. "It was hot and overcrowded," said a spokeswoman. "Since we moved to Sanford the satisfaction rating has gone up dramatically."

"We reckon we are a very environmentally aware airline and take conservation matters extremely seriously. This is really a battle between the Orlando airport authorities and the local environmental groups."

Jack Wert, tourism director for Seminole County based in Heathrow, Florida, says: "We do not want any situation to deter holidaymakers from coming here."

He said that there were no eagles in the nest when it was felled and that the birds would return to another, less hazardous, site.

Britons cruise the Channel in luxury

By STEVE KEENAN

A NEW generation of potential cruise-ship customers are cutting their teeth on cheap cross-Channel excursions.

Seafood restaurants, casinos and swimming pools, which are more typically found on Caribbean cruise ships, have flourished on luxury cruise-ferry heading for France. With prices as low as £19, thousands of Britons are taking advantage of low prices to experience a taste of the high life at sea.

Brittany Ferries and P&O European Ferries have invested heavily in ships operating from Portsmouth, Poole and Plymouth, in order to lure holidaymakers away from cheap prices offered at Dover.

While prices are generally double those of Dover or Le Havre, the two companies

argue that the longer routes save driving time to the west coast holiday playgrounds while allowing drivers to break their journey.

Their move has also created a spin-off market for short, ship-based cruises. Stephen Shaw, the finance director of Brittany Ferries, says: "What we had to do with the longer routes was to make the experience more pleasurable. Instead of charging down the autoroute, people could relax with a glass of wine. We are now offering a lot of mini-cruises, which appeal to people who simply want to go there and back. It has become a recognised product."

Brittany will next week launch £9.95 fares for 24-hour excursions on its Poole-Cherbourg route. The offer will be

available on other routes from September 15 until Christmas. The company has invested £350 million on three ships operating to Caen, St Malo and Cherbourg. Last year, the AA gave five-star awards for on-board facilities and services to the Val de Loire, Bretagne and Duc de Normandie.

Cinemas, restaurants and playrooms are standard on all ships. The ten-deck Val de Loire, which operates a 24-hour crossing to Santander in northern Spain, also boasts a swimming pool.

P&O's *Pride of Le Havre*, operating from Portsmouth, has four restaurants and a carvery, plus casino, pool and sauna. Both companies also offer entertainment, with magicians often wandering the ship to entertain children.

Foot passengers to Le Havre or Cherbourg can travel with P&O for £9, with up to 36 hours allowed in France.

With extensive duty-free facilities on board, and abundant markets in the French ports, Britons are taking the opportunity to combine a ferry trip with shopping.

A sample P&O itinerary may be travelling out from Portsmouth on the 10pm sailing, arriving in Le Havre at 7am and leaving at 4pm, arriving home at 8pm.

Both companies also sell three-day tickets, with P&O currently offering fares of £59 (booked by September 12 for travel by the 15th) to Le Havre and Cherbourg, to include a car and two passengers.

P&O European Ferries (0990 990980); Brittany Ferries (0990 360360).



High life: Caribbean-style cruise-ferries are flourishing



We love Volga boatmen

RUSSIA'S Volga and Neva rivers are now the third most popular rivers in the world for British holidaymakers.

Harvey Elliott writes: More than 15,000 Britons sailed on the two waterways last year compared with 10,000 on the Danube, 5,000 on the Rhône and 2,000 on the Mississippi, according to the Passenger Shipping Association.

The growth in demand for cruises in Russia has helped to triple the popularity of river cruising over the past five years. At least 144,000 people will take a cruise this year, compared with only 44,000 in 1992, according to Bill Gibbons, director of the PSA.

Almost half the 70,000 who cruise the Nile will travel with Thomson. The lifting of the Foreign Office ban on travel in middle Egypt has enabled operators such as Swan Hellenic to reintroduce its 600-mile Nile cruises between Cairo and Aswan.

The second most popular river is the Rhône. Coming up fast are the Yangtze, the Douro in Portugal, the Amazon, the Irrawaddy in Burma and the Po in Italy.

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NEWS

Princess denies criticising Tories

■ Diana, Princess of Wales, sought to extricate herself from a deepening political row yesterday over her alleged criticism of the former Conservative Government's policy on landmines.

The Princess denied that she had described Tory policy as "hopeless" in an interview with *Le Monde*, but as constitutionalists and Tory MPs reacted with outrage Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, intervened to exploit her remarks for the maximum political capital.

Pages 1, 16

Police inquiry into MI5 revelations

■ Scotland Yard's Special Branch has begun a criminal investigation into a possible breach of the Official Secrets Act by David Shayler, the former MI5 officer. The investigation follows Mr Shayler's revelations about bugging operations against individuals, including Peter Mandelson ... Pages 1, 17

Warship rescue

A Bedford couple and their six-year-old son had to be rescued by the crew of *HMS Illustrious* after their yacht was battered for three days by 30ft waves in the Bay of Biscay ... Page 1

Poets at odds

The world of Celtic literature was in turmoil over allegations that Derick Thomson, one of Scotland's best-known Gaelic poets had been "blatantly plagiarised" by a Cornish writer ... Page 3

Discordant note

George Harrison, the former Beatle, says British groups are rubbish and the best thing about the Spice Girls is that "you can watch them with the sound off" ... Page 10

Change of gear

Motorists who face prosecution for driving without due care and attention are being offered the alternative of a course to improve their driving skills ... Page 6

Bayeux's last thread

An Englishwoman has re-created the last panel of the Bayeux tapestry, showing the Saxon nobles surrendering and William the Conqueror being crowned ... Page 7

Jets in near miss

Two British Airways jets with more than 300 passengers came within 40ft over Kent when an air traffic controller told the wrong plane to descend ... Page 7

Monkeys ape children's sculptures

■ Capuchin monkeys enjoy modelling clay into shapes and decorating it with paint and leaves, American researchers have found. They are said to be "very focused". On standard educational scales, the capuchins resemble human children aged about 18 to 24 months. Just like infants, they abandon what they have made as soon as they have finished ... Page 3



Israeli tanks pause for ice-creams and cold drinks from a civilian snack van during an exercise on the Golan Heights yesterday.

BUSINESS

British Telecom: BT and MCI are refusing to increase their advisers' fees even though the E11 billion merger of the companies had to be renegotiated ... Page 23

WH Smith: The retailer raised pre-tax profits from £89 million to £124 million and held its dividend at 15.65p a share ... Page 23

Petrol: Shell will today announce that it is ditching up to 30 of its 50 forecourt store suppliers as part of an internal shake-up designed to create a new breed of "convenience store" forecourts ... Page 23

Markets: The FTSE 100 index rose 20 points to close at 4906.9. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 101.6 to 101.9 after a fall from \$1.625 to \$1.6108 but a rise from DM2.9035 to DM2.9151 ... Page 26

REPORT

Football: Celtic revived memories of their greatest European victories with the drama of their victory over Tirol Innsbruck ... Page 40

WH Smith: The retailer raised pre-tax profits from £89 million to £124 million and held its dividend at 15.65p a share ... Page 23

Golf: The Europe Ryder Cup team may not now be announced this weekend after the saga over the selection of the final place in the team took another twist ... Page 41

Tennis: Andre Agassi returned to competition with an impressive 6-1, 6-1, 6-3 win over Steve Cappell at the US Open ... Page 44, 42

Racing: Swain, the battle-hardened five-year-old, is going straight for the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe on October 5 ... Page 39

British soul: Connor Reeves is a solo singer-songwriter who has written for Tina Turner and is at number 12 in the singles chart. But he's British, and white ... Page 32

Sheriff strip: Best by far of the week's new movies is Britain's *The Full Monty*, Peter Cattaneo's feel-good tale of unemployed steelworkers seeking fame and fortune by stripping ... Page 33

Jacobean sleeve: At the Globe *The Maid's Tragedy* provides a splendid entertainment of murder and mayhem, leavened by laughter in this extraordinarily intimate theatre ... Page 34

Fest worker: Few conductors have risen as fast as Antonio Pappano, who tonight tackles Wagner's *Die Walküre* in Edinburgh ... Page 35

Cheese: Dr Thomas Sturzendorf on compulsive disorders in the young, high blood pressure and more good news for drinkers ... Page 14

Shelley revisited: An exhibition in Rome illuminates Mary Shelley, author of *Frankenstein* ... Page 15

Show train: "When I got out of hospital, I could hardly walk around ... I guess it's a slow process of recuperation." Bob Dylan on his heart disease ... Page 15

Beat buys: African adventures with a £100 saving, special flight deals for students and pensioners, discounts on British hotels ... just some of the bargains ... Page 20

Include me out: The all-inclusive holiday resort is under criticism as giving little economic benefit to local people and putting tourists at risk of food poisoning ... Page 21

COULDING

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Get your boarding cards at the ready for a new aviation magazine. *The Air Show* (BBC2, 8pm). **Review:** Peter Barnard suggests some essential viewing for Claire Short ... Pages 42, 43

OPINION

Louse upon a wheel

Mark Shayler had already provided ample evidence of his own untrustworthiness and unsuitability for intelligence work. It is the agency's failure to see this which will damage it most ... Page 17

Land of danger

Washington must hope that Mr Jang can help it check the ballistic missiles programme as well; for it is these weapons above all that make North Korea the most dangerous country on earth ... Page 17

Undiscovered country
Those who yearn to see Libya's cultural heritage should be patient. All but the most desperate or determined should wait another few years before they visit ... Page 17

COLUMNS

MAGNUS LINKLATER

Lord Irvine recently posed the question of whether editors would prefer a law of privacy enacted by Parliament, or one created piece-meal by judges. There is no doubt of the answer ... Page 16

ROGER BOYES

How, after the discrediting of Nazi eugenics, could compulsory sterilisation of the racially and socially "inferior" be continued in the developed world? ... Page 16

PETER RIDDELL

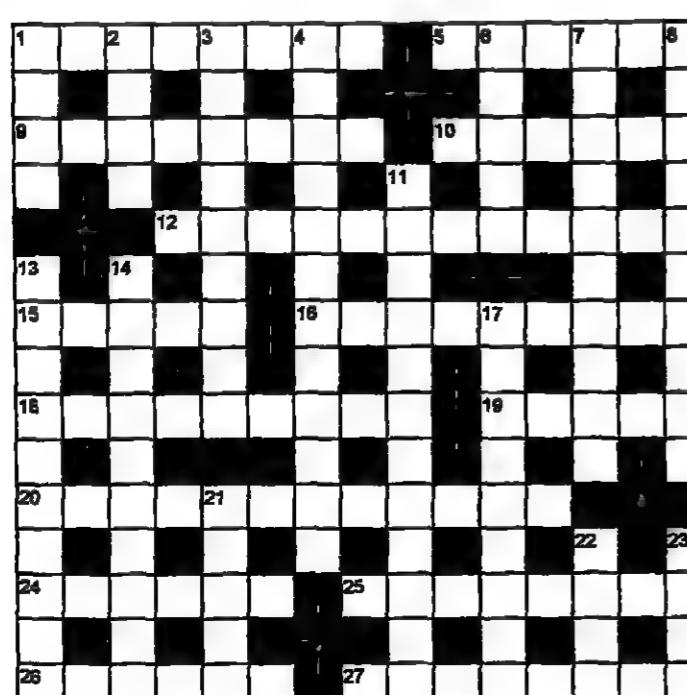
The euphoric Teflon-coated phase is now over. Mr Blair will have to start delivering on the promises made ... Page 16

Hans von Luck, panzer leader; Christopher Harley, landowner; John Gaest, publisher ... Page 19

MONTESSORI
Montserrat: M15 surveillance; Greenpeace-BP row; protecting children; Mic words; bishops and churchwardens; Oasis v The Beatles; rats in cisterns ... Page 17

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT
25, 47, 51, 7, 22, 1, Bonus: 20. Set of balls: 6. Machine: Arthur. The guaranteed jackpot was £5 million.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,570



ACROSS

- Bold mate he is in the main (3).
- Tear about - about - about - about (6).
- In part, the Spanish team is chosen by him (8).
- Father takes girl around everywhere (6).
- Title to pass to chap second in command (5-4-3).
- Medal, we hear, for runner (5).
- Coquette's beginning to forsake sutor for alternative (9).
- Infantrymen shoot without restriction (9).
- Proportion of it sweep holds back (5).
- Unexpectedly a ladle's found in the soup (3,2,1,6).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,569

STREAMLINE PICK
RAANAE
MISTAKES GERMAN
BETTER
RUNNER AMETHYST
T S L E
CAMP ALL THERAPY
H D O L I G R
SYNONYMOUS MEANT
T N T
REHOUSES OUTLET
M C T I S U Y
SAMOSA AIRSTRIP
I P F G A O N
CLAY FILAMARKET

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HOLES OF DARKNESS

Sun rises 6.07 am Sun sets 7.56 pm
Moon sets 5.41 pm Moon rises 1.40 am

New moon September 1 London 7.35 pm to 6.09 am
Bristol 8.05 pm to 5.18 am
Edinburgh 8.17 pm to 6.11 am
Manchester 8.08 pm to 6.13 am
Perth 8.15 pm to 6.32 am

Full moon September 15 London 7.35 pm to 6.09 am
Bristol 8.05 pm to 5.18 am
Edinburgh 8.17 pm to 6.11 am
Manchester 8.08 pm to 6.13 am
Perth 8.15 pm to 6.32 am

Waxing crescent moon September 16 London 7.35 pm to 6.09 am
Bristol 8.05 pm to 5.18 am
Edinburgh 8.17 pm to 6.11 am
Manchester 8.08 pm to 6.13 am
Perth 8.15 pm to 6.32 am

Waxing gibbous moon September 17 London 7.35 pm to 6.09 am
Bristol 8.05 pm to 5.18 am
Edinburgh 8.17 pm to 6.11 am
Manchester 8.08 pm to 6.13 am
Perth 8.15 pm to 6.32 am

Waxing crescent moon September 18 London 7.35 pm to 6.09 am
Bristol 8.05 pm to 5.18 am
Edinburgh 8.17 pm to 6.11 am
Manchester 8.08 pm to 6.13 am
Perth 8.15 pm to 6.32 am

Waxing gibbous moon September 19 London 7.35 pm to 6.09 am
Bristol 8.05 pm to 5.18 am
Edinburgh 8.17 pm to 6.11 am
Manchester 8.08 pm to 6.13 am
Perth 8.15 pm to 6.32 am

Waxing crescent moon September 20 London 7.35 pm to 6.09 am
Bristol 8.05 pm to 5.18 am
Edinburgh 8.17 pm to 6.11 am
Manchester 8.08 pm to 6.13 am
Perth 8.15 pm to 6.32 am

Waxing gibbous moon September 21 London 7.35 pm to 6.09 am
Bristol 8.05 pm to 5.18 am
Edinburgh 8.17 pm to 6.11 am
Manchester 8.08 pm to 6.13 am
Perth 8.15 pm to 6.32 am

Waxing crescent moon September 22 London 7.35 pm to 6.09 am
Bristol 8.05 pm to 5.18 am
Edinburgh 8.17 pm to 6.11 am
Manchester 8.08 pm to 6.13 am
Perth 8.15 pm to 6.32 am

Waxing gibbous moon September 23 London 7.35 pm to 6.09 am
Bristol 8.05 pm to 5.18 am
Edinburgh 8.17 pm to 6.11 am
Manchester 8.08 pm to 6.13 am
Perth 8.15 pm to 6.32 am

Waxing crescent moon September 24 London 7.35 pm to 6.09 am
Bristol 8.05 pm to 5.18 am
Edinburgh 8.17 pm to 6.11 am
Manchester 8.08 pm to 6.13 am
Perth 8.15 pm to 6.32 am

Waxing gibbous moon September 25 London 7.35 pm to 6.09 am
Bristol 8.05 pm to 5.18 am
Edinburgh 8.17 pm to 6.11 am
Manchester 8.08 pm to 6.13 am
Perth 8.15 pm to 6.32 am

Waxing crescent moon September 26 London 7.35 pm to 6.09 am
Bristol 8.05 pm to 5.18 am
Edinburgh 8.17 pm to 6.11 am
Manchester 8.08 pm to 6.13 am
Perth 8.15 pm to 6.32 am

Waxing gibbous moon September 27 London 7.35 pm to 6.09 am
Bristol 8.05 pm to 5.18 am
Edinburgh 8.17 pm to 6.11 am
Manchester 8.08 pm to 6.13 am
Perth 8.15 pm to 6.32 am

Waxing crescent moon September 28 London 7.35 pm to 6.09 am
Bristol 8.05 pm to 5.18 am
Edinburgh 8.17 pm to 6.11 am
Manchester 8.08 pm to 6.13 am
Perth 8.15 pm to 6.32 am

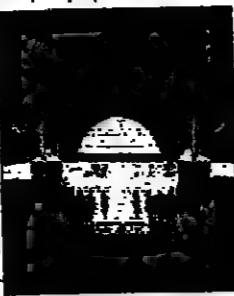
Waxing gibbous moon September 29 London 7.35 pm to 6.09 am
Bristol 8.05 pm to 5.18 am
Edinburgh 8.17 pm to 6.11 am
Manchester 8.08 pm to 6.13 am
Perth 8.15 pm to 6.32 am

Waxing crescent moon September 30 London 7.35 pm to 6.09 am
Bristol 8.05 pm to 5.18 am
Edinburgh 8.17 pm to 6.11 am
Manchester 8.08 pm to 6.13 am
Perth 8.15 pm to 6.32 am

THE TIMES



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TODAY



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Timothy Leary, always ready for another trip
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY AUGUST 28 1997

Board stands by strategy
of chief who walked out

Troubled WH Smith rules out break-up

BY PAUL DURMAN

WH Smith, the stores group that recently lost its chief executive, has ruled out breaking itself up into its constituent businesses as a way out of its present difficulties.

Jeremy Hardie, chairman, said the board remained committed to the strategy it embarked on under the leadership of Bill Cockburn, who controversially quit after only 18 months to take up a senior job with British Telecom. That did not involve the sale of any more businesses, or a break-up.

Analysts have suggested that the demerger of the main store chain from Smith's other businesses, including Waterstone's book shops and Virgin Our Price, the music chain, could release £50 million more than the group's current stock market value of about £1 billion. Mr Hardie said: "There's a huge gap between doing that arithmetic

The recent Budget changes on the taxation of dividend income prompted Smith to write off £73 million of previously recognised profits arising from its lengthy pension fund contribution holiday. This cut pre-tax profits to £51 million. Last year the group incurred a loss of £194 million, the first in its 200 year history.

Profits at WH Smith Retail rose from £41 million to £43 million on sales 1.5 per cent higher at £788 million. In the first 11 weeks of the current year, sales are up 3 per cent, or 2 per cent on a like-for-like basis.

Across the group as a whole, the first 11 weeks' sales are 9 per cent higher, or 7 per cent like-for-like. This encouraging start helped Smith's shares to recover early losses, closing 9p higher at 376.1p.

Waterstone's increased profits a third to £20 million on sales 11 per cent higher at £200 million. Virgin Our Price saw a £4 million decline to £14 million because of a lack of big releases. However, this half will be helped by the new Oasis album, which sold 104,000 copies through Virgin Our Price on its release date last Thursday. WH Smith Retail sold a further 42,000 copies over the first three days.

The news distribution business raised profits 9 million to £44 million, helped by £4 million of cost savings.

WH Smith will pay a final dividend of 10.4p a share to maintain the total at 15.65p.

Commentary, page 25

BT and MCI stand firm on advisers' fees

BY ERIC REGULY

BRITISH TELECOM and MCI are refusing to increase the fees paid to their advisers even though the merger of the companies had to be renegotiated and is substantially delayed.

BT and MCI America's second-largest long-distance phone company, disclosed in a US Securities and Exchange Commission filing in March that they expected to pay about \$118 million (£74 million) to financial and legal advisers, accountants and printers.

The largest single amount, \$47 million, was to be paid by BT, whose advisers were Rothschild Inc of New York, its sister company NM Rothschild & Sons in London, and Morgan Stanley, the Wall Street bank Linklaters & Paines.

handled the legal work in Britain. In spite of pressure from the advisers, BT is expected to keep the fee schedule largely intact. The advisers began working on the merger in mid-1996 and their work effectively doubled this summer, when MCI put out a surprise profits warning. The price was reduced by more than 15 per cent.

The transatlantic merger ranks among the lengthiest and most complex in corporate history. One BT official said: "I remember walking into a room and it was wall-to-wall lawyers. There must have been 25 of them. I asked Iain Vallance [BT's chairman], what the collective noun for lawyers was, and he said 'a suit'."



Trialtir wheels out a champion

CARL LEWIS, the US Olympic sprint champion, is the big-money name promoting a tiny company that says it wants to float on London's junior stock market (Adam Jones writes).

Trialtir wants to join the Alternative Investment Market and raise £1 million from a placing through Cheviot Capital, valuing it at £4.25 million.

It has international rights to make and sell a mountain bike

that can also be propelled by pulling on the handlebar. The bike will be sold through the QVC television shopping channel and other outlets.

Trialtir, about 70 per cent owned by its directors, said its operations made a profit of £56,000 for the nine months ended June 30. It claims it could make profits of £1.875 million before tax.

Commentary, page 25

Fidelity's flagship fund to turn away investors

BY PAUL DURMAN

FIDELITY MAGELLAN, the world's largest pooled investment fund, is to turn away new investors to prevent itself from growing more unwieldy.

The fund, the US flagship of Fidelity Investments, of Boston, had net assets of almost \$63 billion (£39 billion) at the end of last month. This is more than the total funds managed by all but the biggest British investment and insurance groups, and is 20 times the size of the largest UK investment trust, Foreign & Colonial.

Inflows have already picked up noticeably in recent weeks. Robert Pozen, president and chief executive of Fidelity Management & Research, said that limiting access to the fund would allow Mr Stansky to "continue to manage the

fund in the most effective manner for its shareholders".

The decision not to close to new investors until the end of next month is itself likely to encourage a rush to invest. Fidelity said it believed this notice period would be sufficiently short to prevent an unwieldy rush of inflows.

Magellan suffered a year of poor performance in 1995, prompting a wave of criticism of Fidelity, which responded with a series of management changes. In all, Magellan has 463 holdings in US companies, including giants of US industry such as General Electric, Philip Morris, IBM, Oracle and Microsoft.

Tempus, page 26

Shell to shake-up its forecourt service

BY FRASER NELSON

SHELL will today announce that it is to ditch up to 30 of its 50 forecourt suppliers as part of an internal shake-up designed to create a new breed of "convenience store" forecourts.

The company, whose petrol profits have been hit by a forecourt price war, is to award a £100 million contract to Hays, the logistics company, and introduce a new range of own-label products. Shell will take direct control over every product it orders for its forecourts. Hays will distribute 90 per cent of its goods.

The reforms will affect each of the petrol company's 850 wholly owned forecourts, most of which are open for 24 hours. City-based forecourts will

mine has not only brought a split within the NUM, but also within the Labour Party. David Taylor, who won his seat from the Conservatives in May, yesterday called on John Battle, the Energy Minister, to intervene, something Mr Battle has reportedly refused to do.

"We need the Labour Party to come out and give us full support to show commitment to the coal industry," said Mr Taylor. "I'm going to contact John Battle's office today and try to get a meeting to lobby him."

RJB, which has spent £40 million on the mine in the past two years, claimed geological problems were behind its closure. The Mansfield meeting yesterday was hoping to consider a report from Alan Dubbs, the UDM's mining engineer, refuting this.

But his report has been delayed because RJB refused to allow him down to the coalface. The UDM hopes to have the report next week which it can show to prospective purchasers of Asfordby.

The meeting took place despite Mr Scargill's opposition and with the NUM leader refusing to acknowledge that it would take place. "We've nothing but contempt of the UDM and will not sit down with the UDM," he said. "Despite requests, RJB Mining has refused to allow union vice-president Frank Cave and myself a visit to Asfordby to make an assessment of the situation."

The UDM split from the NUM during the 1984-85 strike, which the NUM lost after fighting for nearly a year. The last official contact between the unions was in December 1985.

The closure of the £360

million mine has not only brought a split within the NUM, but also within the Labour Party. David Taylor, who won his seat from the Conservatives in May, yesterday called on John Battle, the Energy Minister, to intervene, something Mr Battle has reportedly refused to do.

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The closure of the £360

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4906.9	(+20.6)
FTSE All share	3.37%	(+7.28)
Nikkei	18441.94	(-373.04)
New York	7741.34	(-40.88)
Dow Jones	908.88	(-1.14)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5.50%	(5.50%)
Long Bonds	9.67%	(9.67%)
Yield	8.64%	(8.64%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	7.1%	(7.1%)
Life and gilt	7.1%	(7.1%)
Future (Sep)	114%	(114%)

STERLING

New York	1.6100	(1.6115)
London	1.6118	(1.6127)
S. Africa	2.5170	(2.5035)
DM	0.9242	(0.9282)
JPY	2.4122	(2.4015)
Yen	161.50	(161.12)
E. India	105.7	(105.5)

SS/\$

London	1.6103*	(1.6175)
DM	0.6935*	(0.6950)
JPY	1.1968*	(1.1968)
Yen	110.5	(110.5)
SS index	1034.85	(1034.85)

DOLLAR

North Sea Oil	1.6103	(1.6175)
Brent 15-day (Nov)	1.6105	(1.6140)
Gold	432.00	(432.00)
London close	8324.85	(8324.85)

* denotes midday trading price

Widening

Britain's trade deficit widened in June, providing firm evidence that the strong pound is hurting exporters. The global trade gap increased from £733 million to £850 million as import growth, boosted by the consumer boom, outstripped growth in exports.

Page 24

Building up

Marley, the construction company, expects house building activity in Britain to remain unaffected by the interest rate rises since the General Election.

Page 25

A quiet word in your ear.

Mortgage Express mortgages are

still

THE TIMES THURSDAY AUGUST 28 1997

Ford GlycoScience postpones flotation

Oil wins £46m order

Society head to retire

R&B buys Irish company

New chief for panel

Record for Readymix

Wiggins damages claim

Dominick Hunter ahead

When Bill Cockburn disgracefully walked out on his £425,000 a year job as chief executive of WH Smith Group two months ago, he cost his shareholders £100 million of stock market value. Despite his departure, 18 months into what he had described as a four-year turnaround, the books and music retailer is determined to stick to the strategy that he had devised. Should investors be as sanguine as Jeremy Hardie about this?

The issue for WH Smith remains the same as ever: how does it make money from its flagship chain in the high street? Mr Hardie, the chairman, insists there is a big market for a mainstream store specialising (specialising) in books, videos, music and stationery — all areas where the group has market shares of 20 per cent or more, although this includes the Virgin Our Price music stores and Waterstone's book shop. He insists that WH Smith can be and is being turned around.

The trouble is, we only have his word for it. It is impossible to discern any significant improvement from yesterday's full-year results, which show the profits from WH Smith Retail creeping ahead from £41 million to £43 million, with sales rising by only 1.5 per cent. It was being suggested in some quarters yesterday that this understates the true improvement because Bevry Hodson, the newly appointed and therefore still unproven managing director, does not share

ing director has insisted on £6 million of stock write-downs. But a year ago Mr Cockburn was claiming that by focusing on a narrower range of stock, the group was freeing up the equivalent of 50 new stores. There is certainly no evidence of the sort of substantial improvement implied by those remarks, and Mr Hardie concedes that not all of Smith's store innovations have proved successful. The answer, he says, does not lie in a new format for the stores. It is much more mundane, and involves better buying, tighter stock control and generally more efficient organisation.

Well, we will see. In the meantime, Mr Hardie has ruled out the option of breaking up the group. His most pressing job is to select Mr Cockburn's successor from the highly publicised list of candidates. Mr Hardie says, in interviews, none of the four has suggested the group's strategy is wrong — but then, in the circumstances that is perhaps hardly surprising. Stuart Rose, formerly of Burton, is currently without a job, and the other three confirmed candidates are internal barons. It also clear that Keith Hamill, Smith's generally well-regarded finance director, does not share

Mr Hardie's conviction that the group should rule out a break-up. It is true that the main problem facing the group seems to require retaining skills but it still seems odd for the ambitious Mr Hamill to rule himself out of the race for the top job — unless he is unwilling to agree to the terms on which it is offered.

Is Mr Hardie keeping Smith's options open, or is he essentially seeking a yes-man? Shareholders should find out.

Smaller firms take the best option

Thanks to the meddling of those who see the corporate governance debate as a career opportunity, major companies have been encouraged to find ever more complicated ways of incentivising their management. The details of directors' bonus schemes and their various long-term incentive

COMMENTARY by our City Editor

plans can now spread over several pages in annual reports.

But it seems it is only the big boys who have succumbed to the deliberations of the Greenbury Committee, the agitating of PIRC, and the expensive advice of that latest breed of corporate panthera, the remuneration consultancy.

The cheering news is that the majority of quoted companies outside the Footsie are sticking with share option schemes as the means of motivating managers.

They are not stupid to see the merit in keeping things simple. Share options provide a straightforward way of harnessing the aims of management to the desires of investors, surely the essence of what most shareholders want from good corporate governance, even if the demands of PIRC's Anne Simpson and her colleagues go somewhat further.

There are issues over the level at which options should be priced and the number that

should be issued, but the principle of turning managers into long-term shareholders has obvious logic.

New research shows that the number of FTSE companies now relying solely on share options has dropped from 22 per cent to 17 per cent in the last year, with a consequent increase, no doubt, in the fees paid to remuneration consultants and the boardroom time devoted to the subject of pay. In the next tier of the stock market, however, an overwhelming 82 per cent of industrial and service companies are sticking loyalty to share options, and share options alone.

Major investors may have been persuaded that something more is needed if key individuals are to be tied into companies for several years but loyalty that cannot be bought by a raft of maturing share options is hardly likely to be secured by any more complicated scheme. The only sure beneficiaries of the schemes are the

consultants who are paid to devise them. Perhaps it is an indication of their own suspicions that the market for expensive advice may be drying up that one major consultancy, Monks Partnership, has produced a 100-page study entitled: *Long Term Rewards — Choosing the Right Plan, Yours for just £19.50*.

Pleasure palaces to please planners

A breed known as "futurists", we were supposed to be heading for a period of "cocooning", in which, cleared of what was going on outside, we would cling to our hearts and indulge in comfort food.

But not yet. Spending on entertainment outside the home is soaring to record levels, with cinema attendances now double the level to which they had recently sunk, restaurants erupting in unlikely places and, regrettably, a glut of ghastly formulaic new pubs.

The huge leisure complex is today's sought-after investment. But, while the punters may be enthusiastic about such developments,

ments, planners tend to be less than happy about playing host to a pleasure palace unless the scheme is a dramatic improvement on what was there before.

On the basis of this simple truth, property people are becoming increasingly enthusiastic about the prospects for two companies that have already made their mark on the English landscape, Blue Circle and RMC. The cast-off of the first is already being turned into Bluewater Park, the upmarket new shopping centre in Kent. The second can claim responsibility for Thorpe Park, scene of many a princely splashing on the log flume.

Both could provide sites for more imaginative developments for the public pleasure. Fill in a pit with water, line up the jetskis, and away you go. Surely only the meanest planner would find fault with that.

Marshall law

SIR Colin Marshall has surprised many with the ease with which he has given up his hands on role at British Airways. Now he has a raft of other involvements, ranging from drumming up investment for London through London First to a host of directorships. But as BA admits that, having been buffered by strike action, it is now turning away business at Heathrow, is it time for Sir Colin to be just a little less of a non-executive chairman?

Rate rises will not hit new homes, says Marley

BY OLIVER AUGUST

MARLEY, the construction materials company, expects housebuilding activity in Britain to remain unaffected by the four consecutive interest rate rises since the May general election.

Tony Alexander, chairman said: "During the remainder of the year, we expect new housebuilding activity in the UK to be maintained at the current level and favourable trading conditions to continue in most of our overseas markets."

Prices for some of Marley's key products are likely to go up by the end of the year. Mr Alexander said: "With clay and concrete product prices up by 10 per cent and an increase in housing in the South East

and the West Midlands, we are expecting a busy autumn." Marley yesterday unveiled an 11 per cent increase, to £29 million, in pre-tax profits before exceptionalities. The results were adversely affected by the strong pound, which inflicted £2.3 million in translation costs. Mr Alexander said: "Almost three-quarters of our earnings are coming from overseas."

While the UK market is still only just recovering from the severe recession of the early 1990s, trading conditions in most overseas markets improved significantly in the first half, compared with a year earlier. On top of the higher activity, foreign subsidiaries also improved their financial results through increased efficiencies, Marley said.

The only "disappointment" in overseas markets was South Africa, which saw only slow growth. Mr Alexander said: "America and Germany were the best-performing subsidiaries. The growth in Germany came as a surprise. Most analysts still regard the German construction sector as the sick man of Europe."

Marley is continuing to pursue its strategy of overseas expansion and hinted that it is looking for small bolt-on acquisitions.

The company purchased the Flexo commercial flooring business of Robbins Inc, in America, for £24.8 million earlier this month.

Marley said that the acquisition, which is aimed at expanding its plastics business, will be completed on tomorrow.

Mr Alexander said: "With the clearance of US regulatory requirements, the agreements is now unconditional."

Tops up

TOPPS Tiles, the chain of specialist tile shops that came to the market in June, lifted pro-forma pre-tax profits 25 per cent from £2 million to £2.5 million in the year to May 31.

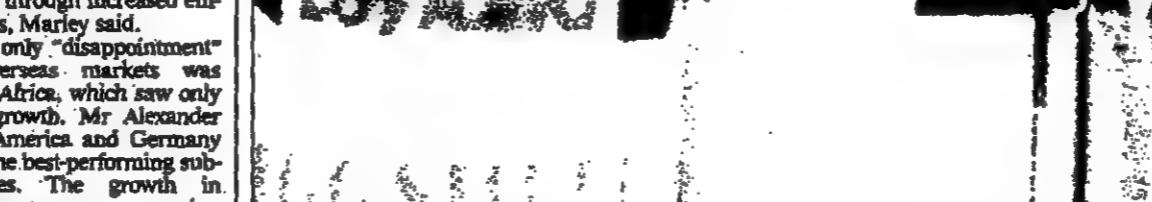
Adjusted pro-forma earnings per share were 10p (6.5p), with current like-for-like sales growing 16 per cent.

Beales blow

BEALES Hunter, the refrigeration and electrical components company, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits to £2.11 million (£3.28 million) in the year to May 31. Earnings fell to 14.2p a share from 21.8p. The final dividend is maintained at 7.5p a share, leaving the total unchanged at 10.7p.

Keller ahead

KELLER, the ground engineering business, reported a modest 22 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £4.7 million (£4.6 million) for the six months to June 30. Earnings were 5.2p (4.7p) a share. An interim dividend of 2.1p (1.95p) will be paid on October 31. The group's overseas divisions disappointed.



Mike Hennessy was delighted by the popularity of Kalon's Deva wallcoverings

Credit Suisse rises before merger vote

BY ADAM JONES

CREDIT SUISSE, the Swiss banking group, which will become one of Europe's largest financial services companies after completing its merger with Winterthur, the insurer, announced a 19 per cent rise in interim profits yesterday.

In the first half of 1997, profits before tax and exceptional items were SFr1.68 billion (£700 million). The bulk came from Credit Suisse First Boston, the investment banking arm, which contributed SFr1.3 billion before tax and exceptional items.

The Swiss corporate and individual customers division incurred a pre-tax loss of SFr177 million, a reduction from last year's first-half deficit of SFr357 million.

Shareholders in Winterthur and Credit Suisse are to vote on the merger on September 5.

The investment bank's costs rose 40 per cent because of

rising bonus payments, although the cost-to-income ratio fell slightly, to 67.7 per cent.

Cots also rose 10 per cent in the asset management arm, which was in line with expansion plans, said Credit Suisse International private banking saw profits of SFr82 million before tax and exceptional items.

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Shareholders in Winterthur and Credit Suisse are to vote on the merger on September 5.

The gas regulator also set

Gas competition worries rejected

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

COMPETITION in domestic gas is to start in Scotland and the North East on November 1 against the wishes of the Gas Consumers Council and many gas companies.

Clare Spottiswoode, the gas regulator, has rejected claims that the system is not ready to cope with the roll-out of competition to another 2.5 million households. Administrative and technical problems have already occurred in southern England. The programmes have also been dogged by aggressive marketing by rivals to British Gas Trading.

The gas regulator also set

out dates by which the rest of the country will be able to shop around for their gas.

Sue Slipman, director of the Gas Consumers Council, said: "We are worried that the early opening of the market will lead to higher levels of problems for consumers than would have been created by a later starting date."

Rivals to British Gas Trading, the supply arm of Centrica, have also warned that the system devised by Transco — the pipelines network — may not be able to support large switches of customers without difficulty.

CHESHIRE BUILDING SOCIETY

6-MONTH'S GROUP RESULTS (UNAUDITED)

	6 months to 30th June 1997 (£'000s)	6 months to 30th June 1996 (£'000s)
Net interest receivable	14,583	15,588
Other income and charges	4,320	4,344
Total income	18,903	19,932
Administrative expenses	8,927	8,198
Operating profit before provisions	9,976	11,734
Provisions for loans, Advances and guarantees	806	1,380
Profit on ordinary activities	9,170	10,454
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	2,890	3,450
Profit for the half year	6,280	7,004
Gross capital	133,417	121,887
Total assets (£m)	1,724m	1,558m

The Group results as above are unaudited

HIGHLIGHTS

- Asset growth for the half year of 5%
- Net retail receipts and net mortgage lending both well above market share
- Mortgage losses reduced by 37%
- Strong gross capital position of 8.5%
- High solvency ratio of 16.0%

Paul Hughes, Chief Executive, commented:

"The Cheshire is the largest regional society in the North West and reports another strong performance for the first half of 1997. We continue to focus on traditional core business activities and this has enabled the Society to increase its share of the savings and mortgage markets."

"Mortgage losses have again reduced significantly and this trend is also reflected in our lower level of mortgage arrears."

"Our capital position has remained at a high level, notwithstanding the impact of reduced interest margins and good asset growth."

"The strength of our capital and low administrative expenses should enable the Society to compete successfully and demonstrate to our members, the benefits of membership."



Cheshire Building Society
Civic Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 6AF.



Hammicks hopes to open 50 shops within five years

Hammicks plans franchised chain

By CHRIS AYRES

HAMMICKS, the bookseller, yesterday unveiled plans to shake-up the book trade by creating up to 50 franchise shops over the next five years.

The move will triple the size of Hammicks and provide stiff competition for independent bookshops in market towns and commuter towns.

The company, whose preferred suppliers include Little, Brown and HarperCollins, said the shops would have the regular features, but also the advantage of Hammicks' bulk-buying power.

Trevor Goul-Wheeler, managing director of Hammicks, said: "I believe

we are about to revolutionise the book trade. There are many people who would love to have their own bookshop, but book retailing is complex."

He said there were about 3,000 independent bookshops in Britain, stocking a wide range of books and providing a high standard of customer service.

Hammicks' plans were given a cautious welcome yesterday by Sydney Davies, of the Booksellers' Association. "Small bookshops are under pressure anyway from chains such as Waterstones, which are moving into market towns," he said. "There is no

reason why a franchise chain should not succeed, and it already works well in a country like ours."

Hammicks was founded by Charles Hammick in 1968 and today has 25 high street outlets, a turnover of £29 million and 300 employees.

STOCK MARKET



CLARE STEWART

Rank shares get a lift from Bass bid interest

RANK, the Butlins to bingo group, whose shares have been largely seen as bombed out recently, hit better form yesterday as they were pushed 14½ p higher to 560p.

On another quiet day with buying interest generally muted, Rank benefited from faint whispers of bid interest from Bass. Weaker sterling and shortage of stock, as Rank continues its buyback programme, were also said to be behind the rise.

Talk of interest from Bass was given a hesitant reception. "Rank is vulnerable and anyone that comes in with a reasonable offer would probably get their hand bitten off by investors," said one analyst.

But in spite of the attractions to Bass, up 5p at 827½ p, of parts of Rank, such as its holidays division and the Hard Rock Cafe group, the whole package was not rated as particularly desirable to Bass.

Trading followed another uncertain course yesterday, with little institutional activity to provide momentum. After a wobbly start, with the index off nearly 17 points in early trading, a stronger futures market helped to propel the FTSE 100 back through 4,900, to rise 34 points at its best.

The market drifted lower after Wall Street's weaker opening and, as the close the FTSE 100 stood at 4,906.9, up 20.6. Volumes were very thin, however, with just under 520 million shares traded by the market close.

The utilities were the latest to see their shares buoyed by talk of buybacks. Among the best performers were National Power, which rose 16p to 557½ p, PowerGen up 10½ p at 775½ p and Scottish Power, 5½ p higher at 443½ p. Among water stocks, Severn Trent put on 12p to 866½ p.

The weaker pound helped to cheer a raft of international groups higher. These included GEC, up 8p to 382p, with TI Group up higher at 602½ p and British Aerospace climbing 11p to 1,141½ p.

Banks were again in demand, with a fresh bout of bid speculation helping Abbey National to add 16½ p to 399p, Barclays jumped 10p to 814½ p, while Lloyds TSB was ahead 15p to 739½ p.

Strong figures on unit trust sales helped Schroders to climb 42½ p to 1810½ p. Standard Chartered gave up further ground with a 16½ p slide



Rank's Hard Rock Cafe is seen as an enticement for Bass

to 977½ p, while among life assurance groups, Norwich Union rose 10p to 345½ p, with buying by tracker funds ahead of the group's inclusion in the FTSE 100 said to be boosting the share price.

Securicor ended 11½ p lower to 26½ p after the departure of Ed Hough, head of its communications division.

Pharmaceutical stocks enjoyed a number of good rises,

Zeneca rose 15p to 1,956½ p, Glaxo Wellcome adding 17p to 1,240½ p. Chiroscience, among the smaller drug stocks, rose 10p to 303½ p. Scotia Holdings closed 12½ p better at 320p. SmithKline Beecham was off colour, however, with its shares marked 6½ p lower at 526p amid busy trading.

Among retailers the best gains were seen by Marks & Spencer, up 14p to 591p, with Boots ahead 18p to 817p and Next 11p higher at 777½ p.

Shares in WH Smith recovered from an early fall as the group reported year-end figures at the low end of forecasts. The shares revived, to end 9p higher at 376½ p, with more than three million traded.

Insurers finding support included Commercial Union, which rose 9½ p to 734½ p and GRE, up 16p to 282p.

Carlton Communications lost 14½ p to 455p after reports that the end of the Channel 4 funding formula will cost it £31 million. Just behind Carlton in the listing of FTSE 100 worst performers was BT, down 9p to 404½ p, with 31 million shares traded, as the MCI deal was given further consideration.

Reckitt & Colman was bought up ahead of its interim figures, due out today. It ended at 981½ p, up 12½ p. Unilever, tipped as a possible predator for Reckitt & Colman, was 18½ p lower at 1,187p.

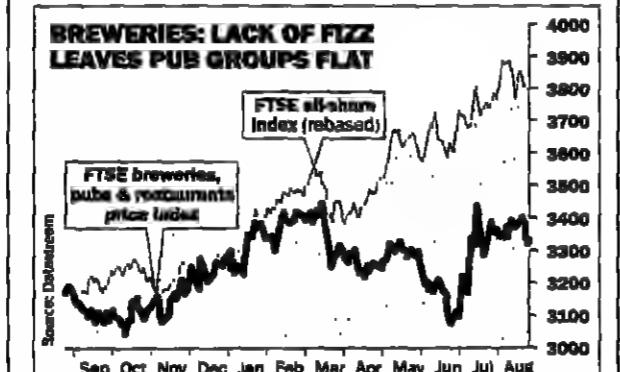
Rolls-Royce, down 4½ p to 254½ p, The group announced a £460 million engine order from Continental Airlines.

Imperial Tobacco ended a penny firmer at 394½ p, while BAT retreated 5p to 385p and Gallaher lost 5p to 181½ p.

Kalamazoo Computer ended 9½ p higher at 285p, having jumped 29p in trading earlier in the day. The rise was fuelled by news of Reynolds & Reynolds, the US group, taking a 22 per cent stake in Kalamazoo.

British Borneo, the oil exploration group, rose 14p to 473½ p after its acquisition of a 60 per cent stake in the Allegheny Field in the Gulf of Mexico. A buy recommendation helped Enterprise Oil to climb 5p to 694½ p.

□ **FTSE BREWERIES, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS PRICE INDEX**



Chiroscience, 208½ p (+19p); Geanouse Gp, 388½ p (+20p); Rank Gp, 380p (+14½ p); Shield Disp, 588½ p (+22½ p); Socia, 220p (+12½ p); Jardine Math, 489p (+17½ p); Close Bros, 454p (+14½ p); North Union, 345½ p (+10½ p); Marks & Spencer, 591p (+14½ p); Boots, 817p (+18p).

□ **FTSE BREWERIES, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS PRICE INDEX**

Bass rose 15p to 827½ p, but Whitbread was left languishing yesterday as its shares retreated 11½ p to 797p on talk of lower beer sales. Scottish & Newcastle, which has its annual meeting today, closed 8½ p at 723½ p, while Vaux dipped 4½ p to 284p.

The share price weakness follows the lacklustre trend seen across the brewing, pub and restaurant sector, which has lagged the FTSE all-share index this year. A number of factors are cited for its poor performance.

Martin Hawkins, an analyst with Greig Middle-

ton, said: "There have been plenty of dynamic performances from more specialised outlets, but the core, traditional pub businesses continue to suffer."

Mr Hawkins is, however, fairly positive on the sector, though he says that there is still a long way to go in the pub retailing revolution. His buy list includes Scottish & Newcastle, but he adds that "there is a field of undervalued opportunities among smaller stocks". These include Wolverhampton & Dudley, Mansfield Brewery and Regent Inns.

At the short end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 ended E132 lower at E102½ p, while Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was off E10½ p at E109½ p.

□ **FTSE BREWERIES, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS PRICE INDEX**

Three Mth Sterling was weaker after shares tumbled more than 70 points and then drifted back. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 40.88 points at 7,741.34.

STOCK NOTICES

New York (midday)

Dow Jones 7741.34 (-0.89) S&P Composite 908.88 (-1.14)

Tokyo Nikkei Average 1841.94 (-37.04)

Hong Kong Hang Seng 1553.95 (+13.27)

Amsterdam EOE Index 907.53 (+3.89)

Sydney ASX 2626.50 (+0.20)

Frankfurt DAX 3995.66 (+26.33)

Singapore Straits 1915.96 (-9.24)

Brussels General 13323.59 (-7.16)

Paris CAC-40 2871.70 (+2.44)

Zurich Ska 1170.40 (+17.93)

London FTSE 30 2446.5 (-17.5) FTSE 100 4904.20 (-20.8) FTSE 250 4695.6 (-0.4) FTSE 500 2672.0 (28.0) FTSE Eurotrack 100 2573.9 (-6.19) FTSE All-Shares 2313.32 (-13.20)

FTSE Financials 122.74 (-0.03) FTSE Small Stocks 96.95 (-0.11) FTSE Volume 614.90

US 1.616 (-0.0017) German Mark 2.9151 (-0.0116) Exchange Index 101.9 (-0.03) Bank of England official close 1,475.88 ECU 1.1857 RPI 197.5 Jul (3.3%) Jan 1987=100 RPTX 1364.70 Jul (3.0%) Aug 1987=100

Source: Exetel

Prices in £ sterling, except where otherwise indicated

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Prices in £ sterling, except where otherwise indicated

Source: Exetel

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THE TIMES THURSDAY AUGUST 28 1997

Solute an extraordinary economic achievement. Over the past two decades the number of people in East Asia officially classified as poor has halved. As the World Bank claims with some feeling, this rate of progress is virtually unprecedented in human history. If there was ever any lingering doubt of the power of market-led enterprise to drive economic progress anywhere round the world, this one statistic surely clinches it.

The bad news is that the World Bank's official definition of poverty is extremely low, equivalent to surviving on roughly £1 a day in today's money. And nearly 350 million people more than in any other region, are still eking out such a marginal existence.

Three quarters of them are in China, the rest mainly in the more remote parts of other big empires such as Indonesia. These are often peopled by racial minorities loathed at the centre. Outside Japan, El-say poverty has been abolished only in a few East Asian countries, notably in Singapore.

There are problems. Even the

South Korea and Taiwan. And as skilled workers earn bigger differentials, the relatively poor become a bigger cultural threat.

Few would bet against progress being repeated on a similar scale over the next dozen years. China's enterprise revolution, though rattling up huge levels of production and trade, is only in its infancy. And other parts of the region are held back by war or repression, whose perpetrators may eventually realise what they are missing.

Asian tigers, such as South Korea, Taiwan and Malaysia, which grasped the baton of export-led growth from Japan in the 1970s, are becoming wealthy, high-grade economies. When the currencies are in the right part of the sky, income per head of small economies such as Singapore and Hong Kong is fully comparable with most EU members states.

There are problems. Even the

bigger economies are equivalent in size and potential only to individual European countries. Collectively, they are dwarfed by China. As medium-sized economic powers, they must increasingly look over their shoulders. They are vulnerable to the vicissitudes of world markets. They must fear the threat to their markets from China, the bigger, cheaper newcomer as the next generation. They also face the perils of making the transition to a mature economy, which are still causing so much angst in Japan.

This vulnerability is being brought home by the currency storms now hitting the region. They began in Thailand, which had seen enormous manufacturing growth but on a less secure base of domestic savings than others. A modest downturn soon produced a domestic financial

crash and sent foreigners scur-

ring. The baht has turned a third against the dollar, sending Thailand for a \$17 billion package from the International Monetary Fund.

The battle of the baht has been followed by attacks on the currencies of Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore and, briefly, even on Hong Kong's well-backed dollar. Dr Mahathir Mohamed, Malay-

sia's combative Prime Minister, has blamed George Soros and claimed that he had political motives. The big man of the foreign exchanges has hotly denied it.

Some of the attacks have little apparent logic, save that speculators cannot distinguish one economy from another. But the combination of current trade deficits and heavy inward investment, typical of developing economies since the early growth of America, can leave a currency in the lurch if confidence suddenly evaporates.

IMF packages come with tough conditions, especially on rampant state spending. Even without the IMF, involuntary devaluations will force retrenchment all round South East Asia, setting back the livings of many of those hundreds of millions who are, by World Bank standards, no longer poor. Conglomerates are collapsing, restrictive tariffs are being dusted

down, projects are being shelved. Dr Mahathir has a point when he complains that the IMF should have been better prepared after the Mexico peso debacle. Medium-sized countries need some counterweight to the immeasurably bigger combined forces of speculators, if they are not to be forced into EU-type regional currency unions.

Setbacks on the foreign exchanges are, however, rarely damaging for long. They can have the same painful but beneficial effect as the periodic blitz on costs in take out the fat in a business.

The longer-term challenge is to work out how your country can ride the economic rollercoaster driven on by each new country or continent that joins the competitive world. And to start moving that way, Singapore has long planned to be the Switzerland of Asia, a project that has brought disasters such as pushing wages up ahead

of a world recession. On the whole it has worked.

Today, Singapore is trying to wire up its whole economy to the information revolution. South Korea is seeing its industrial structure break without having a new one for the next phase.

There seems little point in medium-sized countries such as Britain, even within the EU, merely aping what is happening in the Far East. Still less is there cause to cut real wages to cut costs, a forlorn proposition given those 250 million Chinese yet to enter the economic mainstream. The tigers do not, on the whole, believe that they are in conflict with the next generation. The rich, if they rely on trade, have to build their own monopolies of invention, creativity, quality and brand marketing.

That is easier if you are small and lack the relatively poor who become more angry and troublesome as economies become wealthier. The City would make a highly competitive country. The challenge is to bring three or four more sectors to the same standard.



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Tarnished tigers still burn bright

Wigan's peerless alpine proposals have sparked avalanche warnings

Dominic Walsh
on fears that
the burgeoning
leisure park
industry may be
riding for a fall

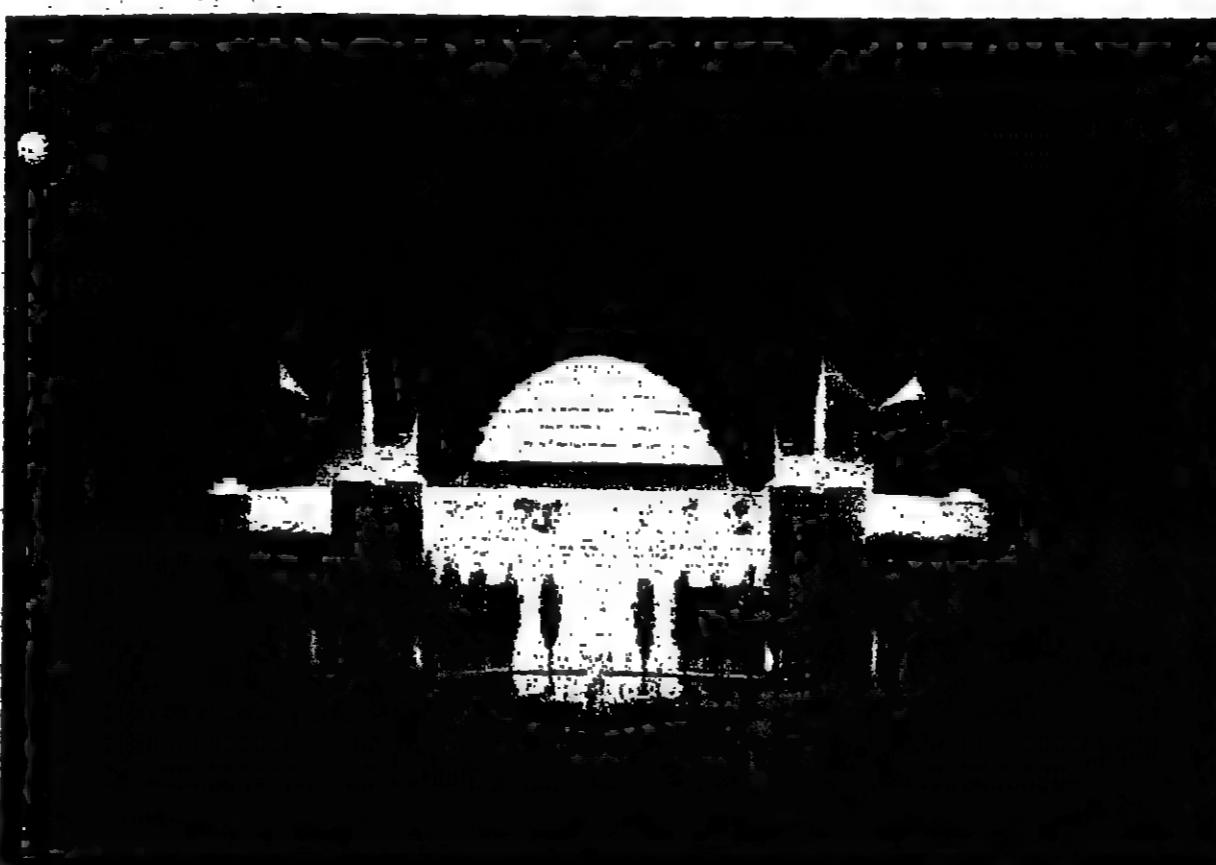
Wigan may not have a pier but it could soon boast its very own alpine ski village. The public's appetite for indoor leisure pursuits has developed to the point where a leisure park is operating or proposed in every large conurbation in the UK. But the £150 million scheme unveiled this month by Wigan Council and Moorfield Estates is seen by some as the first sign of potential indigestion.

It is the sheer scale and breadth of the proposal, billed as the largest in the UK, that is causing alarm bells to ring. The 70-acre complex in Leigh, to be known as Xanadu (after Kublai Khan's fabled Chinese palace), will be housed in a 75-metre-high domed building the centrepiece of which will be a 375,000 sq ft "real" snow skiing slope and alpine village.

The proposal talks of creating a "cineropolis-style screen-based virtual reality experience" and megaplex cinemas as well as an aquatics centre, hotel and a host of shops, restaurants and bars. The aim, according to Wigan Council, which owns most of the land, is to create a flagship development in the North West that will attract five million visitors a year and "increase the reputation of the region across the world".

One leading leisure consultant said: "This is horribly reminiscent of some of the crazy schemes of the late 1980s that were based around things like indoor hang-gliding centres. Some of the artists' impressions had to be seen to be believed, but most of them remained just that: artists' impressions."

John Sloane, borough planning officer for Wigan, admits the scheme is ambitious but he is adamant that the scale of the plan is merely a response to market demand, with the de-



Wigan Council believes that the proposed Xanadu leisure development will attract five million visitors a year

velopers calling the shots.

"There's always got to be a first in any field," he said.

"After all, there had never been a major shopping centre before on the scale of the MetroCentre [in Gateshead]."

The key to the scheme's success, according to Moorfield Estates, is its location between Manchester and Liverpool, providing an estimated catchment of 20 million people within a 90-minute drive. Marc Gilburt, managing director, said there had already been strong interest from the big leisure and retail operators and he is confident of pre-leasing a substantial proportion of the scheme as it goes through the planning process. "Once a major part of the development is pre-let, finance for a scheme of this nature and quality will be readily securable," he added.

Moorfield has submitted a planning application in conjunction with Greenbank Partnerships, a developer based in Wigan, and has brought in Acer Showmet, a subsidiary of Hyder, the Welsh water and

electricity group, to develop the skiing facility.

Peter Gwilliam, a chartered surveyor specialising in the leisure property field, said successful leisure parks are generally based around a multiplex cinema with restaurants and bars, and complementary attractions such as health and fitness, bingo and ten-pin bowling. He said: "The multiplex is the all-important anchor, but where they start to get overcomplicated and overambitious you begin to ask questions."

The proliferation of multiplexes — there are currently more than 80, with around 30 on leisure parks — has been driven by the turnaround in cinema attendances. But Mr Gwilliam warned that the multiplex cinema market was rapidly approaching saturation. By the end of the year the total will have reached 100, and there another 50 or so at various stages of the planning and development process, all of them as part of leisure parks. "Traditionally multiplex operators have resisted

going head-to-head in a catchment area, but we're beginning to see that slip," he said. "Where that has happened there are already warning signs that trading is suffering."

Another potential problem is security, particularly at leisure parks with so-called family entertainment centres, which look set to become a feature of many of the proposed new parks.

Bass, First Leisure and Allied Kunick are all developing centres with motion simulation rides and virtual reality technology. THI, the leisure group that has pioneered leisure parks, believes it is only a matter of time before they replace the cinema as the anchor for parks in some locations.

But without strict security they have the potential to become hangouts for bands of youths and gangs, and some investors are worried about the effect reports of stabbings and drug dealing are having on some centres. James Welch,

partner in charge of leisure at Jones Lang Wootton, the property adviser, said: "Security is one of the major issues. A number of institutions have become slightly concerned when nightclubs are opened within the leisure parks. Most of their income comes from the sale of alcohol and it can create a different atmosphere."

Simon Leadbetter, of developer Marylebone Warwick Balfour, said that the provision of a safe, clean and attractive environment is essential.

Mr Leadbetter added that while closed-circuit TV cameras might draw attention to a potential crime problem, an open approach was reassuring to both tenants and customers alike. He cited the example of Tower Park in Poole, Dorset, which highlights in its promotional literature the fact that all public areas are protected by 24-hour security cameras and personnel. In addition, trees have been thinned down and floodlighting increased to make the car park more visible, helping to halve the

Edging in

FEAR and loathing at HSBC James Capel, which hasn't been the same since when the sifable Peter Quinn used to run the show. The broker is suffering an invasion of personnel from NatWest. Douglas Baker, head of market making, is ex-NatWest, and has just brought in two former colleagues Jim O'Donnell, chief executive officer, is an old NatWest hand, while sales, under James Rowell, has brought in a handful of yes, NatWest types, with rumours of more to come. Capel long-

ago

servers are none too pleased. I hear some are wondering if their days are numbered.

□ DAVID TAYLOR, MP for Leicester North West, was at the union meeting yesterday trying to save the local Asfordby pit. Should he really have turned up in his VW Golf, complete with personalised number-plate TAY 110R, though? Taylor, David: yes, new Labour, class of 1997. Thought so. Wouldn't know his mushy peats from his avocados mouse.

Holy writ
SOME very cautious and very devout investors are being courted by the Alkharawimni Fund, which claims to be the first Islamically acceptable fund using a market-neutral strategy avoiding volatile ups and downs of the market. It also avoids companies with interests in pork, alcohol, tobacco, gambling or arms. The fund, managed by Barr Rosenberg, is named after the 14th century Arab mathematician from whose name the word logarithm was derived. Let us hope its knowledge of

THE TIMES
CITY DIARY



the sharia is better than history or etymology. He lived in the 8th and 9th centuries. He named algorithms and algebra: logarithm comes from the Greek.

□ A PLAINTE cry from the City Brasserie, virtually the only occupant still at Plantation House, which is due for demolition next spring. Bookings are down, and the famous queue for the cloakroom is not to blame this time. "A lot of people seem to think we have gone," says general manager Susannah Jackson. But the amount of work needed around the corner at the New Corn Exchange means the Brasserie will have to stay where it is almost until the demolition crews move in.

Rubbish pile
DIRTY dealings down on the rubbish dump: the Environmental Trust Scheme Regulatory Body has had to raise administration fees from 1 per cent to 5 per cent after just a year of life because the nation's landfill operators have not been passing on the landfill tax they have been levying on dumper of rubbish. The money is supposed to be spent

on good works, ecologically speaking. Some then goes to the regulator, whose job is to decide which bodies are worthy enough to receive the cash.

My informant says soundly that administrative costs should at this rate consume all the proceeds of the landfill tax by the summer of 1999. Not so, claims Richard Sills, chief executive, who expects an inflow of funds very shortly as the administrative year ends. I seem to recall this tax was claimed by the last Government as one of its few genuinely green initiatives. We will have to watch its progress.

MARTIN WALLER



Inn is out
EMBARRASSMENT at Forte and its Heritage hotels, a mor-

itorial headline. The company has been criticised for its handling of a recent fire at its hotel in the Cotswolds. The fire, which caused significant damage to the building, occurred on August 12th. The hotel was closed for several days while repairs were carried out. The company has issued a statement apologising for any inconvenience caused to guests and staff. The hotel has since reopened and is operating normally.

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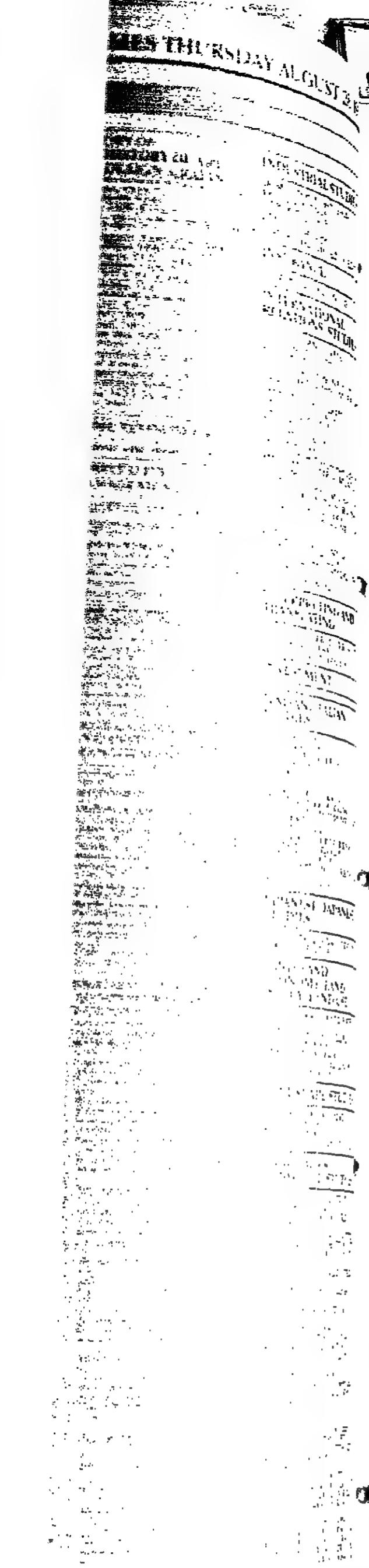
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ACCOUNTANCY / DEGREE VACANCIES 31

Random audit makes its bow

Self-assessment depends on trust.
The Revenue must show it can deter
backsliders, says Mavis Sargent

One of the least engaging aspects of the move to self-assessment for personal taxpayers and all unincorporated businesses is the arrival of the random audit.

The Inland Revenue announced, from this year, who would be subject to the possibility of a random audit – and, indeed, more than 6,000 candidates have been selected.

Self-assessment is a system that relies largely on trust. But the Inland Revenue needs to show that it has the capacity to take action to deter potential backsliders from completing inaccurate or blatantly false returns. Random audit means that any individual may be chosen from the entire catalogue of taxpayers for deeper investigation.

Once 12 months has expired from the filing deadline for the return, the time limit for starting an investigation will normally have lapsed. Normally this will be January 31, 1999, for returns relating to the fiscal year ending April 5, 1997 – the filing deadline being January 31, 1998.

However, the Inland Revenue can pursue investigations well after that time where, in its judgment, there is negligence or fraud.

Furthermore, where its inspectors discover there is negligence or fraud in one year, they can go back through six years of returns, and even longer in some cases.

Hence it is absolutely vital that the requirement to retain tax records for the six-year period is understood and adhered to by the taxpayer.

One of the least likeable aspects of the random audit

could entail the return being challenged and a series of questions being posed, which could lead on to further investigation.

Self-assessment and random audits will be with us into the foreseeable future and each year a new set of taxpayers will be targeted for the process. In addition, all taxpayers will need to keep their underlying tax-related records for six years in order to satisfy the tax legislation requirements.

Once 12 months has expired from the filing deadline for the return, the time limit for starting an investigation will normally have lapsed. Normally this will be January 31, 1999, for returns relating to the fiscal year ending April 5, 1997 – the filing deadline being January 31, 1998.

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One of the least likeable aspects of the random audit



Mavis Sargent says any individual could be investigated

system is that the conventional targeted inquiry will continue and, in fact, will account for most of the investigations undertaken by the Inland Revenue. The ordinary taxpayer who is subject to an inquiry purely on the basis of the new procedure will not be told this by the Inland Revenue and may worry that the Inland Revenue considers that there are mistakes in the return.

It is, however, the case that

will not be truly random. The Inland Revenue will "skew" its selection towards those tax returns that it considers to be of greatest risk. This will have the effect of increasing the sample from the targeted inquiry segment, which are usually the smaller cash businesses and taxpayers who have overseas connections.

When the Inland Revenue selects a tax return for inquiry, it will wish to examine the underlying records and, where

ever possible, to seek corroboration through third-party documentation. Where some or all of the underlying records for the tax return figures are kept by an agent, such as an accountant, the Inland Revenue will still, in the first instance, seek the business records directly from the taxpayer; only if it has no success will it go to the agent.

The taxpayer whose main income is from an employment, with just a few dividends and interest from savings, is not likely to suffer any great inconvenience from an inquiry. In fact, if such a return is selected for inquiry, the taxpayer may not even know as the Inland Revenue may already have all the information it requires to undertake and complete the inquiry. Where the taxpayer is contacted it will perhaps be only to request a missing dividend voucher or interest statement.

Although the random audit is not an audit as an accountant would appreciate the term, it has the power to be a technique that could unsettle the taxpayer. The Inland Revenue would argue that only those individuals and companies with something to hide should fear the random audit.

Nevertheless, many innocent taxpayers may be disturbed by unnecessary and time-consuming inquiry, and the spectre of visits by Inland Revenue inspectors.

■ Mavis Sargent is chairman of the ACCA Taxation Committee, a member of the ACCA Council and a tax partner at Moore Stephens in London.

Timed to imperfection

WAITING for exam results is stressful enough. Receiving a letter headed "Congratulations" three days before the results are made public is even more startling. The mighty firm of KPMG and recruitment consultant Michel Page are currently wiping a large amount of egg off their faces. They bought mailing lists of four years' worth of accounting exam finalists and prepared a letter from Richard Bennison, a partner in

KPMG's financial sector group. This suggested that, having passed their finals, the newly qualified accountants should come and join "our dynamic, fast-moving, City environment". First, it is against the profession's rules to induce someone to break a training contract. "We have apologised to the institute," KPMG said this week. And secondly, the letter was sent a week early. "It was a timing error," KPMG said. The result

Probable not KPMG.

was that nervous students waiting for the Saturday post received the letter about "your success in becoming a fully qualified chartered accountant" on the Wednesday before. Worse, being offered congratulations three days before you discover that, in fact, you have failed has upset a lot of people. "Some of you may be considering a move to one of the larger financial institutions based in the City," said the letter. Probably not KPMG.

OTHER BUSINESS

Singled-minded

NEXT WEEK the English ICA's guide to the single European currency, prepared by the Hundred Group of Finance Directors, is launched. As the section on retailing says: "In the UK it is safe to assume that the consumer will be reluctant, seeing little advantage and much confusion in the change." No wonder the institute is resolutely pricing the publication at £15. No hint of a Euro-price there.

Howells of delight

MERGERS among accountancy firms always produce results that no one expected. Currently eyebrows are raised at the sense of attempting to combine Casson Beckman with Baker Tilly and thus create the 12th-biggest firm in the land. Certainly Geraint Howells, one of the famed Casson Beckman music and entertainment industry specialists, has no doubts. He is off to join Kingston Smith. "I am delighted," he said.

ROBERT BRUCE

LEISURE MANAGEMENT
Banger, NP77
Blackburn Col, N78D
Blackpool Col, L350
Bolton, T70
Buckinghamshire, NTY1*
Colchester, N78D
Croydon, N78D
Glasgow Caledonian, NTY3
Greenwich, N808
Harrow Col, P700
Herts &
Liverpool John Moores, P779
Manchester Metropolitan, Y420
Newcastle, P778
Plymouth, N187
Rochester Inst, P997, BN67
Salisbury, N78D
Sheffield, N78D
South Yorkshire, N78D
Southampton Inst, N78D
Tames Valley
Warrington Col, NN71
Westminster, N78D, NT78, NTQ3
Wessex, P780
Writtle Col, NT80

LEISURE STUDIES

Bradford & Beder, P87N
Central Lancashire, P87N
Cumbria Inst, N78D
Hull Col, L387
Leeds Metropolitan, L380
Manchester, L387
Moray House Inst, N78D
North London, LN87, Y400, LN37,
LN88, PN77, NT77, NT8

LIBRARY STUDIES/LIBRARIANSHIP

Aberystwyth, P200
Brighton, P712
Liverpool John Moores, P721
Northumbria, P208
Robert Gordon, P2P1

LIFE SCIENCES/LIFE STUDIES

Northumbria, C980
LINGUISTICS
Baylor, Q100
East London, Q102, Q108, QV12,
QV13, QV14, QV15, QV16
Hertfordshire, Q100
Lancaster, N26
Lincolnshire & Humberside, N500
London, Q100
London Guildhall, Y400
London Inst, P700
Luton, *
Nottingham, N508
Nottingham Trent, N509
Oxford, P700
Paisley, N500
Plymouth, N500
Surrey, Q105, Q102
Wolverhampton, *
Yateste, *

LITERATURE/LITERARY STUDIES

Bolton Inst, Q200
Bradford, Q200
Essex, R200, OV24, QW23, LQ22
Liverpool John Moores, MQ93,
PQ93, PQ94
Nottingham Inst, Q303
Staffordshire, Q202, LQ73,*
Suffolk, UG1, C98, CQ21, QF29,
QG25, QP24, QN26, QP27
West of England, Q300

LOGIC/LOGISTICS

North London, 21NN, NN39

MAITRISE

Sheffield Hallam, N301, M301

MANAGEMENT/ MANAGEMENT SCIENCE/ MANAGEMENT STUDIES/ MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Aberdeen, N100

Banger, N110, N113, N111

Blackburn Col, N101, N102

Bolton, T70, NW1, OX1, NY1,
OZ7N, 71PNW, N720, G520,
M12, M34, H680, G521, G522

Bradford, P279, H471, NTJX, N19*,
NTJY, NTJZ, N190, N191, N192

Brighton, Q25, NS50

De Montfort, Y401, G744, P747,
P747, J741, P748, L748, P749

Edge Hill Uni, N126, P749

Glasgow, N510

Guildford, N510, P749

Hull Col, N100, N101, N102

Leeds, N100, N101, N102

London, Q100, P700, P701

Nottingham, N500

Nottingham Trent, P700, P701

Nottingham, P700, P701

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NEW ON VIDEO

BASQUIAT

For Guild, 15. 1996
THE life of Jean-Michel Basquiat, the black graffiti artist of the 1980s, seems custom-built for Hollywood clichés about the romantic, self-destructive artist. But the director Julian Schnabel, a personal friend of the late artist, does not take the easy route. He lays out Basquiat's life like a row of bricks, and refuses to judge or explain. Stage actor Jeffrey Wright makes the painter appear charming, but bafflingly self-absorbed, while David Bowie does an amusing turn as Andy Warhol. Fascinating, although the film's potential is unfulfilled. Available to rent.

BOGUS BANDITS

Eureka, PG, 1933
BEHIND the unfamiliar title lies *Fra Diavolo*, Auber's comic opera of 1830, cleverly reworked by MGM as a burlesque vehicle for Laurel and Hardy. It's a curate's egg, but individual spoonfuls are delicious. Stan, in particular, has a ball: he gets drugged, drunk and makes charming games out of scratching his head and slapping his ears, knees and nose. Ringing baritone Dennis King takes care of most of the singing, while Thelma Todd is delightful as the plot's flirtatious young wife.

MICHAEL

Columbia TriStar, PG, 1997
JOHN TRAVOLTA tries our patience with this ragged and whimsical comedy about an unconventional angel endeavouring to bring joy and love to tabloid journalists in Iowa.

Director Nora Ephron drags her feet and does nothing to bind the film's random scenes. Other players struggling to please include Andie MacDowell, William Hurt and Sparky the mongrel dog. A hit with cinemagoers, nonetheless, now available to rent.

TWIN TOWN

PolyGram 18, 1997

THE film that itches to do for Wales what *Shallow Grave*



Jeffrey Wright (left) as Jean-Michel Basquiat and David Bowie (centre) as Andy Warhol in the almost excellent *Basquiat*

POP: Is Conner Reeves the star that British soul has been desperately seeking for so long?

Black-voiced blue-eyed boy



He's written songs for soul heavyweights such as Tina Turner. Now Conner Reeves has a Top 20 single of his own, called *My Father's Son*

going to the park. I'd get home from school, do my homework, eat dinner, then sneak out with my Walkman and the dog. Bad weather was best, because there would be no one else around and I could really let myself go, singing along to a tape by Donny Hathaway or George Benson."

By the age of 13, Reeves was writing songs, aiming to complete one per day — be it good, bad or indifferent — in

order to learn his craft. By the time he left school, with three A levels, he was composing in earnest, and worked on building sites and as a waiter to finance the pursuit of what was by now his consuming interest. At 21, he was rewarded with a publishing deal with Rondor Music, which brought him into contact with a variety of other jobbing writers. "You might find yourself being teamed with five different

finger-snapping R&B. Her debut album, aptly entitled *Sweet Surprise*, is full of unexpected detours. I cannot think of any other jazz singer who could make as persuasive a case for the soft-focus romancings of Kenny Loggins. She also has an eye for songs deserving of a wider audience, such as Duncan Lamont's bitter-sweet ballad, *I Told You So*.

Kerr's constant darting across idioms, from jazz to gospel and blues, can occasionally be disconcerting, as if she were sometimes more interested in parading influences than baring her soul. But she has developed an immensely promising partnership with Phil Pickett, a resourceful pianist whose elegant trio arrangements allow her ample room for manoeuvre.

Wardell is a more agile performer than Kerr, but her voice perhaps lacks the light and shade to sustain a lengthy series of duets. More restrained than usual, she broke loose on *Twisted*. Annie Ross's famous tale of dysfunction set to music by the saxophonist Wardell Gray.

Wardell joined Kerr at the close to harmonise on a dashing encore of *Sometimes I'm Happy*. At which point the bass player Andy Hamill managed to insinuate the theme from *The Womble*. It was on the whole, that kind of evening.

CLIVE DAVIS

Shot in the backing

Percy Sledge

Jazz Cafe, NINETEEN

THESE days, there are not that many opportunities to hear a voice such as that possessed by Percy Sledge. The Jazz Cafe in Camden Town, however, is one of the places that the original Atlantic soul-singer keeps coming back to: this was the first show in a six-night residency.

Sledge's band — a classic Stax line-up of Hammond organ, guitar, bass drums, trombone and trumpet — took the stage first; then he descended the staircase, smiling that gap-toothed smile and telling everyone how good it was to be back in England. He got straight into a couple of the songs for which he is best known, *Cover Me* and *Take Time to Know Her*, but it was not until he sang the Temptations' *My Girl* that he really got into his stride, raising his arms aloft, trembling his knees and directing most of the words at his wife, who was sitting in the balcony.

However, it was at this point that the rhythm section began to look less like

eat strangers in a week, turning up at their house in the morning with the express aim of starting and finishing a song," he says. "And I never seemed to work with anyone my own age; they were all, at least ten years older, sometimes significantly more. There was a lot for me to learn from those people."

Meanwhile, the strength of his own voice made it natural and inevitable that he should aim for a recording deal of his own. "But at the time, all anyone was looking for was boy bands. I was just 24 but already too old. They wanted 18-year-olds who they could tell to wear this, sit there, sing that... Eventually, I went to New York, tired of all the closed doors."

There he met the writer-producer Arthur Baker, who has enjoyed success with Madonna and many others. "He helped me a lot, and was confident I could get a deal as a kind of male Mariah Carey — someone white who sounds black. I thought, 'Wow! Is that what I am?' But before any of his leads came to anything, I got offered a deal back at home as the first artist on a new label. It meant less money upfront, but more artistic control, and that's what I was really after."

The resulting debut album, *Earthbound*, due for release in the autumn, suggests no budgetary controls. Producer Grant Mitchell has pulled in world-class players such as Pino Palladino, Manu Katché and Dominic Miller, the sort of session men more often found in the studio or touring the world with the likes of Sting.

More importantly, though, it presents Reeves as being gloriously accomplished both as a singer and songwriter; there are performances and material there to which his own heroes would be proud to put their own names.

The first taste of his talent has come with the release of a debut single, *My Father's Son*. A staple on commercial radio, it went into the charts at No 12. Aaron Neville wanted to record it, Sir Cliff too," Reeves smiles. "But the time had come to hang on to my best songs; the ones that really give me goosebumps."

ALAN JACKSON
My Father's Son is released by Wildstar Records

classic Stax players than musicians Sledge had run over the Bank Holiday weekend. The first flaws began to show during *Just Out of Reach* (*Of My Two Empty Arms*), a single from 1967 and one of his best-known songs. "We might come back to that later," said Sledge, pointedly but still politely.

But when the band showed that they were equally unfamiliar with the aching *Out Of Left Field*, Sledge could not contain his frustration and made the band stop and start it again. It was followed by an awful attempt at *Dark End of the Street*, which proved too much for the singer. He simply stopped it after a couple of lines and did not even try to do it again.

Sledge began to apologise, but an Irish voice from the bar cut him short: "Will you just give us a song, man?" This seemed to be the right thing to say, because Sledge replied with a sunning version of *Dock of the Bay* which showed that he possesses one of the few voices that is capable of singing that song the way Otis Redding would have done it.

He followed with *White Shadow* of Pale and closed with his big soul standard, *When a Man Loves a Woman*. There really was no need for Sledge to apologise for his band; most people had come here purely to hear the sound of his great voice.

ANN SCANLON

hic place

TRAGEDIE



Riding with the Valkyries

Few conductors have risen as fast as Antonio Pappano. Tonight he tackles Wagner. John Higgins met him

Wagnerites at tonight's Usher Hall performance of *Walküre* Act III should be getting a taste of *Rings* to come. Although Bryn Terfel, the great British bass-baritone hope, has withdrawn from singing his first *Wotan* (to be replaced by the indefatigable John Tomlinson), Jane Eaglen, the Briton, is booked for the new *Ring* at the Metropolitan in New York in 2000. And the conductor, Antonio Pappano, is already beginning to prepare his own cycle, due to open round about the same time at the Monnaie in Brussels, where he is music director.

Pappano is a stocky and ebullient man in his mid-thirties. London-born but brought up mainly in America. He is known in Britain largely for a trio of outstanding opera recordings for EMI. They began with a *Bohème* starring Roberto Alagna, and went on with the star-filled *Don Carlos* from the Châtelet in Paris. Last spring came Puccini's *La rondine*, with Alagna and Angela Gheorghiu, which is very likely to feature in the Records of the Year lists.

All three have the Pappano trademark of extreme theatricality. Even in the impersonal atmosphere of the studio he believes in having a stage set in mind. "It is essential to bring a sense of the theatre into every opera recording. You do it by staring into the singer's eyes as though you were standing by their side in costume. You think about how it would look in the opera house. You can't conduct *Bohème* by opening the score and studying it. It's got to have its heart right there in the theatre."

Earlier this month Pappano was in Hampstead recording the next

stage in his Puccini cycle for EMI, the *Trittico*. He is well aware that the same company has a classic set, with *Göttor* and *de los Angeles*, in the archives. But then the same objection could have been raised about *Bohème*: the Beecham recording with Birling and *de los Angeles* may well still be first choice for many. Pappano is no believer in living in the past and has made a point of using the *Trittico* to introduce several young and, so far, little known singers.

Familiar names are there: José van Dam, the uncrowned king of Brussels, and the Monnaie's title role in *Gianni Schicchi*. Alagna and Gheorghiu are the lovers in the same opera and supply a couple of off-stage voices in *Il turco in Italia*. But inter-

mingled with them are a young Italian baritone, Carlo Guelfi, of whom there are very high hopes, as the bargee Michele in *Tabarro*; and Cristina Gallardo-Domínguez as *Suor Angelica*. They have certainly not been sent along by the international division of central casting.

Pappano's next step along the Puccini line will be the early *Le voci* in a year's time. "Pure delight," he says. "Neapolitan songs from beginning to end." Then possibly comes *Edgar*: "One great baritone aria, but the rest of it doesn't really sound like Puccini at all. I'm still trying to talk myself into that one."

Both Pappano's London opera appearances were also in Puccini. There was a well-received *Butterfly* at the Coliseum; but he would prefer to forget the Covent Garden *Bohème*. "An absolute nightmare. Jerry Hadley, the tenor, fell sick after the first night and I must have had half a dozen different Rodolfo's in as many performances. No we won't talk about that." In any case

he is fearful of being dubbed a Puccini conductor.

"When they hear the name 'Pappano' the immediate reaction is 'Hm, that sounds right for Puccini.' One reason why I have extended my contract at the Monnaie to 2003 is so that I can have total command over my repertoire. I learnt long ago that there was no point in being an itinerant conductor subject to the whims of others. Control your own life. Conduct as many masterpieces as possible and there is a chance that their quality will rub off on you."

In fact Pappano's basic grounding came in Bayreuth under Barenboim. "My father was a singing teacher and I spent my youth accompanying his pupils on the piano. I played the organ in the local church and piano at supper clubs where we lived on the East Coast. Eventually I got to the New York City Opera as a repetiteur and in 1988 accompanied Deborah Polaski when she auditioned for

Barenboim. He ended by engaging both of us for Bayreuth and there I stayed for six seasons. I had little formal academic training and most of my music was learnt on the ground as a working pianist. I suppose that has given me an understanding of singers and their problems. I certainly have admiration for the courage that it takes to go out there and perform."

Pappano's loyalty to Barenboim paid off. In 1993 he was called in at the last minute to replace an ailing Christoph von Dohnányi for a new production of *Siegfried* at the Vienna State Opera. The dress rehearsal was "hairy" but the opening night ended in triumph. It was Barenboim, too, who recommended Pappano to EMI when Georges Prêtre pulled out of *Bohème*. So started the Puccini cycle. Pappano returns to Bayreuth in 1999, this time not as a répétiteur but as conductor of *Lohengrin*.

• Die Walküre is at the Usher Hall 10.31-17.30 tonight at 7.30pm

that added a whole new dimension.

The Edinburgh Festival's celebra-

tion of Shostakovich's score. Far from it: he secured consistently hard-edged textures from his young musicians, who played for him with extraordinary firmness and confidence and scarcely failing clarity. But, alongside the familiar expressions of disillusion, irony and harsh reality, there was on this occasion an element of loneliness.

Haitink did nothing to romanticise the Shostakovich score. Far from it: he secured consistently hard-edged textures from his young musicians, who played for him with extraordinary firmness and confidence and scarcely failing clarity. But, alongside the familiar expressions of disillusion, irony and harsh reality, there was on this occasion an element of loneliness.

that added a whole new dimension.

The Edinburgh Festival's celebra-

Youth makes its mark

EUYO/Haitink
Usher Hall

that added a whole new dimension. The Edinburgh Festival's celebration of Shostakovich's score. Far from it: he secured consistently hard-edged textures from his young musicians, who played for him with extraordinary firmness and confidence and scarcely failing clarity. But, alongside the familiar expressions of disillusion, irony and harsh reality, there was on this occasion an element of loneliness.

*Inno*leranza Suite in 1969 and, though the score was already 10 years old by then, Sir Georg Solti's 1971 endorsement of Elliott Carter's masterly *Variations for Orchestra* with the Chicago Symphony.

Certainly, there was no great demand from the present-day audience to hear Emilio Pomarico and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra re-instate those works. But in the past they were not segregated in late-night modern-music events, but performed alongside music by Mozart and Brahms in mid-evening concerts. One political protest by Nono is enough for one concert, and Carter's *Variations* is so complicated that it needs to be heard when the ear is fresh.

A more realistic programme and a fiftieth-birthday commission might have been both a better investment and a more rewarding exercise for the accomplished BBC SO/Pomarico partnership.

GERALD LARNER



Antonio Pappano, who conducts Act III of *Die Walküre* at the festival tonight. "There is no point in being an itinerant conductor subject to the whims of others"

ryland
magic

Bubbles across the pond

A NEAT bit of programming in Tuesday night's Prom, given by the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Oliver Knussen, offered a premiere each from major British and American composers (Mark Anthony Turnage and Elliott Carter), together with folk-song settings from both sides of the Atlantic that usefully set the cultural scene.

Though rapidly approaching 90, Carter has lost none of his legendary physical or creative energy. With *Allegro scorewile* receiving its European premiere, he completes the triptych *Symphony*, of which the first part was the *Partita*, and the second the *Adagio Tenebroso* (heard two Proms seasons ago). In fact, the notion of longevity stands

behind the new work, in as much as it was inspired by the metaphysical image of a floating bubble representing the fragility of life.

The bubble is depicted by a boozant, bouncing line which, though angular in the extreme, achieves an impressive continuity as it passes from one instrument to another. That angularity severely tests the ensemble of the BBC strings in particular, but one had to admire the sang-froid with which Knussen and the

players steered their way through some enormously complex textures.

Carter's more extrovert but scarcely less intricate *Holiday Overture* of 1944 started the programme, and it ended with an animated performance of the cowboy ballad *Billy the Kid* by Aaron Copland. The strains of the Wild West were not far from a group of folksong settings by Copland, Ruth Crawford and her teacher-husband Charles Seeger, and it was fascinating to hear those faraway yet familiar echoes in close juxtaposition with the folk elements, treated with characteristic lack of sentimentality, in Britten's *Suite on English Folk Tunes: A Time There Was...*

The music of Turnage, the

contemporary British composer represented, springs not out of the folk or pastoral tradition, but out of something more aggressively urban. *Dispelling the Fears* (London premiere) depicts a spiritual journey from darkness to light, and its dissonant tensions are ultimately resolved in a coda of great beauty. The work is scored unusually for two trumpets and orchestra, and the spirited dialogue for the soloists is taken up by other pairs of instruments. The non-competitive partnership of Håkan Hardenberger and John Wallace, for whom it was written, could scarcely have been bettered.

BARRY MILLINGTON

NEW CLASSICAL CDs: Schubert and Schumann revisited; Gallic tenors

CHAMBER
Barry Millington

SCHUBERT
Symphony No 10 in D
Scottish CO/Mackerras
Hyperion CDA67000 ★★★
£14.49

COMPLETIONS of great composers' symphonies need to be treated with caution, but there are good reasons for welcoming Brian Newbould's realisation of Schubert's Tenth (DG36A). It is true that we do not know quite how Schubert would have elaborated the material in the fragmentary piano sketches; on the other hand, a reconstruction of this kind gives us a chance to appreciate the directions in which the composer was moving at the time of his death.

The first movement, for example, features a remarkable — indeed unparalleled — transformation of the second and subject in a slower tempo (Newbould aptly scores it for three solemn trombones and bassoon), while the Scherzo (which may or may not have doubled as a finale) both ambitiously expands the form and bears the fruit of Schubert's late studies in counterpoint.

This disc, which also contains Newbould's realisations of other symphonic

fragments, is fascinating as a practical demonstration of musicalological detective work. The performances, too, are exemplary, with Charles Mackerras drawing sprightly, rhythmically taut but lyrical playing from the Scottish Chamber Orchestra.

RECHERCHE
Hilary Finch

SCHUMANN
Heine Lieder
Felicity Sawallisch
EMI 5 55592 2 ★★
£15.99

ONE would expect no ordinary *Dichterliebe* from Thomas Hampson; but this is something else. When the American baritone was preparing to perform Schumann's great song cycle, he went in search of the manuscript and found, by chance, the original version: 20 songs instead of 16, with numerous textual differences. This world premiere recording of the "other" *Dichterliebe* offers thrilling insight into Schumann's changing responses to Heine's poetry.

OPERA
John Higgins

LES 40 TENORS
EMI Classics 7243 5 72007 2
A USEFUL compilation, presumably aimed at operatic tyros surveying the world's

full detective file is on show in the accompanying booklet but, in brief, the four extra songs are those often thought to be late works of Schumann: *Dein Angesicht*, *Lehn' deine Wang*, *Es leuchtet meine Liebe*, and *Mein Wagen rollt langsam*. To hear this last spooky and unsettling song precede the desolate *Ich hab' mein Traum geweinet* is to probe deeper and more disturbingly into the shadowy dreamworld of both Heine's and Schumann's vision.

In the familiar *Dichterliebe* songs the less familiar verbal underlay and articulation frequently bring the settings nearer to speech than song; they sigh less, but bite and brose more. Hampson and his pianist Wolfgang Sawallisch reflect this in searingly committed performances, complemented by Schumann's early Op 24 *Liederkreis* and Heine's fiercely ironic *Der arme Peter* triptych.

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Patriots will note that Tauber, who ended up with UK nationality, is the nearest approach to a British tenor. But then no Russians are included either.

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THE TIMES THURSDAY AUGUST 28 1997

Two thousand years of faith and power

Piers Paul
Read on the
Vatican's
survival

It is often said, even by Roman Catholics, that the Church will survive into the third millennium only if the present Pope changes its teaching to accommodate the manners and morals of the modern world. The riposte to this is to be found in two new histories of the papacy which show how time and again it has triumphed over its adversaries, however untenable its position seemed at the time.

The longevity of the papacy as a continuous institution is a unique phenomenon in the history of the human race. "The papacy," writes Eamon Duffy, "is the oldest as well as, arguably, the most influential of all human institutions." The historian, writes Paul Johnson, "bows his head in humble respect at its antiquity, continuity and durability, and observes in awe its endless splendours and shadows as they flicker across the centuries. It has now survived two entire millennia with its essential functions intact."

Its origins are undocumented but the tradition accepted from the earliest times is that St Peter, the leader of Christ's disciples and the "rock" upon whom he built his

Saints and Sinners
A History of the Popes
By Eamon Duffy
Yale, £16.95
ISBN 0 300 07332 1

The Papacy
Edited by Michael Walsh
With an Introduction
by Paul Johnson
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £25
ISBN 0 297 63359 0

Church was crucified in Rome together with St Paul, and was buried beneath what is now the high altar of St Peter's. The exact status of his immediate successors in the early Church is unknown, but the continuity between Apostle and Pope was established as early as AD 180, and "by the beginning of the third century" the Church in Rome was an acknowledged point of reference for Christians throughout the Mediterranean world."

The role of the papacy as the supreme court of the Church, and so the source of the Church's unity, is perhaps the only consistent element in its long history. The Popes' seal for orthodoxy was apparent almost from the start, but their relations with the secular world have varied greatly according to political circumstance. The conversion of Constantine eventually made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire, but it began a rivalry between Popes and Christian emperors and kings that lasted at least until the First World War. Paradoxically, papal power over national churches has often been greater when the governments were indifferent or even antagonistic towards the Church. The Pope's control over the appointment of bishops is today greater than ever before.

To tackle the history of 261 Popes over a period of 2,000 years is a daunting task. Ludwig von Pastor's 37-volume *History of the Popes* covers only 450 years. Of the two



Lived by hope: watching a holy mass held by Pope John Paul II in Krakow in June of this year

authors, only Eamon Duffy attempts it. *The Papacy* has Paul Johnson's name on the dust jacket but he contributes only an introduction and an afterword. The bulk of the book is made up of essays by different scholars edited by Michael Walsh, biographer of Pope John Paul II and the librarian of Heythrop College. This cross-fertilisation of Johnson, a well-known traditionalist, with a liberal Catholic such as Walsh, no doubt ensures an even-handed treatment of the subject. The only disadvantage is in the change in tone from Johnson's sparkling prose in his introduction to the drier tone of the academics whose essays follow. Each is an expert in his field, and there is no doubt that we have in it the results of the most up-to-date thinking and most recent research, but it denies the book a broad sweep or a consistent style.

Eamon Duffy's book, by contrast, has a grand perspective that suits its subject. This is not what one might have expected from the meticulous scholar who wrote *The Stripping of the Altars*, Duffy's acclaimed study of the Reformation in England.

Rarely can a professional historian have moved so successfully from the particular to the general as Duffy does in this history of the Popes. The reader is caught up in the enthusiasm he clearly feels for his subject. He enlivens the long march through church history with anecdotes that bring the different pontiffs to life and, though the genesis of the book was a television series, there is never a sense that this is anything less than a serious and authoritative history. *Saints and Sinners* is a remarkable achievement.

How is it that the papacy has survived? Although Duffy, like Johnson and Walsh, is a Catholic, he carefully avoids any claim to a divine guarantee. Johnson ascribes this extraordinary phenomenon to the link with Rome, the universality of the institution and the variety of the individuals. Perhaps more significant was the belief of Catholics — now numbering almost a billion — that the successor to St Peter has inherited his powers in bind and loose, and the keys to the kingdom of Heaven. Many of the Popes abused this office, but even from a purely temporal perspective, it can be said that the good of the good Popes such as Gregory the Great outweighs the bad of the bad ones; and even the bad turn out not to have been as bad as we imagined.

"Many aspects of their behaviour and policies that we find reprehensible or at least baffling," writes Duffy, "are probably exaggerated by his enemies. They also feel that much can be forgiven Renaissance Popes such as Sixtus IV and Julius II for their lavish patronage of the arts. The fine colour illustrations in both books help to make their point."

Wolves beneath the sea

M. R. D. Foot

HITLER'S U-BOAT WAR
By Clay Blair
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £30
ISBN 0 297 84076 2

CLAY BLAIR served in a United States Navy submarine in the Pacific late in the last World War, and worked on several leading American magazines before he turned historian. He is well qualified to tackle the subject of this book, and has done an enormous amount of work — as testified by 70 pages of appendices, listing *inter alia* every U-boat that operated west of the Baltic, with commander's name, year and month of birth and its fate.

Life in a U-boat in the Atlantic was often violently uncomfortable. "Conditions below were pure hell, like living inside a tumbling, wet barrel." Moreover, the craft's hulls were often inadequate to stand the strains to which they were subjected; their torpedoes were often malfunctioned. Casualties were severe; but the crews' morale on the whole remained high.

Elaborate orders were given, when the World War against Hitler's Germany broke out, to the few U-boat crews available that they were to respect international law. Orders broken that very day — September 3, 1939 — by Lemp, who then commanded

crept into Scapa Flow to torpedo the *Royal Oak*, or Baker-Cresswell's duel with Lemp in mid-Atlantic on May 9, 1941, in which Lemp drowned and the British emerged with U-110's Enigma machine intact. It is a relief to read a piece of naval history in which proper weight is given to intelligence's part in the fighting, both to the advantages the Germans got from reading the simple code on which the Admiralty long insisted for convoy captains, and to the role played by Bletchley Park in securing the Germans' eventual defeat.

The second half of the book deals with the U-boat effort against the United States and runs to September 1, 1942. A further volume is promised to carry the story on to the end of the war, when the colossal productive capacity of the United States came to render the threat from U-boats almost negligible. Even in the period this volume covers the U-boat danger was, according to Blair, not as severe as it was thought to be at the time.

This book will be read with appalled interest by anyone who served in the campaign, or has relatives who lost their lives in it. It is salutary for the British to see it viewed largely from the enemy's point of view. There are some unsettling minor errors (the Nazis, for instance, never had a majority in the pre-1933 Reichstag; *Hood* was a battlecruiser, not a super-dreadnought). Yet it remains a detailed account of actions at sea: such as Pien's extraordinary feat of arms, when he

On October 16, 1962, John Kennedy was reading the morning newspapers when the National Security Adviser, McGeorge Bundy, showed him the first U2 reconnaissance photographs of the Soviet nuclear missile bases in Cuba. In the fortnight that followed, the United States and the Soviet Union came closer to an all-out catastrophe than at any time during the Cold War. The world had a narrow escape.

Just how narrow emerges from this readable account of the Cuban missile crisis by two scholars — one Russian and one American — who have meticulously reconstructed the events that led to the show-down. The chronology is retold step by dangerous step, and like a tense screenplay, the plot cuts to Washington, then Moscow or Havana and back to Washington.

Fursenko and Naftali also explore how the two superpowers arrived at this moment of truth and how catastrophe was ultimately averted. Drawing on previously unavailable sources, especially the Kremlin records of Khrushchev's Politburo sessions and the tape recordings of Kennedy's White House meetings, the authors replay the match of superpower chess.

By 1962 Fidel Castro had completed the make-over of the Cuban revolution from popular peasant uprising to communist police state. Cuba's ideological template was more Maoist than Leninist, but only the Soviet Union could offer protection to an

island 90 miles off the Florida coast. And Castro needed protection. The American-backed Bay of Pigs invasion the year before had failed, but Castro was convinced the Yankees would try again.

Nikita Khrushchev, in the early 1960s, was on a roll. From Sputnik to the Berlin Wall, Moscow had pulled off one spectacular feat after another. But the Kremlin's strategic inferiority ranked Khrushchev (America had stationed Jupiter missiles in Turkey), and China was challenging Moscow for leadership of the international communist movement. Cuba offered an opportunity to sponsor a Third World revolution and to stick a Russian finger in the American eye.

The Bay of Pigs had been a disgrace for Kennedy, and Cuba had become a malignant cancer spreading through the hemisphere. Moreover, a

Marianne Wiggins admires a Grand Inquisitor

Critic on the edge

ERRATA
An Examined Life
By George Steiner
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £11.99
ISBN 0 297 63359 0

I know a woman who, as a particularly challenging deadline approaches in her work, dreams she is roused in the middle of the night by an insistent knocking at her door. In her dream she rises, draws her pitchforks about her and holds a lantern up as she opens the door to discover a small figure of a man wrapped in a trenchcoat whom she initially mistakes for Sartre. Immediately this compact figure begins to interrogate her vigorously in English, French and German. His presence on her threshold like a tumble of bicarbonate of soda, bubbly, fizzing, sparkling, gassy. It's George Steiner. "What assurance do you have you're working hard enough?" he needs to know. "What do you believe in? Are you busy? Do you have a moment? What is the crux of your existence?"

If you're going to dream a Grand Inquisitor, the subconscious choice of Steiner says a lot about how well stocked your cellar is. I usually come up with Jeremy Paxman, but that may well be a dreamy function of the old mind/body problem, of libido over celebration. *Errata: An Examined Life*, Steiner's new collection of 11 sussive, admiring essays, succeeds in lifting the veil on the identity of which Grand Inq. has kept Steiner on the knife-edge of preparedness all his life, madly cramming in anticipation of life's final test, the ultimate trick question.

But Steiner trumped this trick so long ago — in *Language and Silence. After Babel. Antigones*,

The Portage to San Cristobal of A. H. — that I have to question why, with all the brilliance bestowed on him at birth and every subsequent opportunity, as it appears from my casual observer's perspective, passionately and fruitfully exploited in the best of senses, he continues to harry his personal peace of mind with public displays of self-justification. That he does so here with humour and self-deprecation is his credit; that he does so at all prompts a recollection of Lyndon Johnson showing the world the scar tissue through which his gall bladder had been surgically extracted.

Every profession creates its own province and, therefore, its own professionalism. By all accounts, Steiner is a galvanic, exacting

teacher. If you have been fortunate enough to watch him give a lecture, as I have, then you have appraised, conspiratorially or not, a rabid intellect at work, meticulous and tender, sensual and pompous, in promoting his own passions. He writes, when he's writing from his sens, like an angel. His gifts are so many and so energetically expressed that it is not surprising, given the jealous attention to every gesture in any provincial society, that his academic achievements have been attacked. But it is one thing to be called to battle to face Achilles, Julius Caesar or — hell — Rambo; it is quite another to be called into the fray to fight a single army ant.

And that's what *Errata*, in the most part, reads like: man against mosquito. Steiner Agonistes. The display of a luminous intelligence volunteering for a downward eddy to substantiate itself to lesser lights.

Most of the 11 so-called essays in *Errata* read as perorations, as if, as I suspect, they were written originally as lectures. There is little here, for any Steiner fan, that's new. More fuel, for Steiner foes, for fire. Steiner is too smart not to have reckoned that. And I'm angry with him for playing in that choir. For not targeting his intelligence elsewhere, beyond the boundary of the province that would squeeze him. Who knows — maybe Socrates once turned to Plato to ask: "Do these pants make me look fat?"

All we can hope is that Plato replied: "No, the pants don't." But the question certainly does.

A Ford you can rely on



Richard Ford: delineating a quiet conflict of the sexes

Claire Messud

WOMEN WITH MEN
By Richard Ford
Harvill, £14.99
ISBN 1 86040 311 X

The narrator of *Jeanlouis* recalls the Thanksgiving of 1975, when he leaves his father in Montana to travel with his aunt Doris to his mother's new home in Seattle. Awaiting the train in bur in a town called Shelby, the boy and his aunt are witness to hideous violence. It is the women around them who act, whether in departure or in patience: it is the women who take responsibility. In this sense, the book's title is apt, but all three novellas belong to their male protagonists; it is their confusion that attracts Ford's meticulous eye.

Tellingly, two of the pieces are set

in Paris,

the emblematic centre of American exile, where life is lived in translation — or, more often, in liberating and terrifying incomprehension. *The Womanizer* follows Martin Austin, a 44-year-old from Chicago, in his bungled search to "regulate" life, do little harm and still be attached to others". On a business trip to France, he meets Josephine Belliard, a divorcee with a small son. Theirs is not a consummated affair but rather the delicious maintenance, over several days, of "the exquisite moment before anything is acted on and when all is potential, before life turns this way or that." Barbara Austin's wife of many years, sees his behaviour differently: "You think of yourself as given," she observes, "that what you go off to some foreign country and do won't have any effect on you, won't leave you different." Austin, fighting to live in the moment, seems incapable of comprehending consequences and hence of comprehending life.

The weight of consequences

hangs over 17-year-old Lawrence, too, but he is their passive observer.

first novel. But the publisher leaves

town unmet, and in the bitter damp of Parisian winter, the couple's trip somehow becomes Helen's. Matthews has claimed that he would "like for things not to centre so much on me", and this is indeed what transpires; but this translation of focus — like the imminent translation of his novel — is more extreme a process than he has anticipated. "Often, of course, you learn what your book is about after you write it," suggests his French translator. "Sometimes after someone translates it for you, it tells you."

Ford's men seek meaning, in their fumbling, convoluted steps, and it is the women in their lives who, in one way or another, provide translation, the glimmers of truth. But these men are also seeking control, and some measure of freedom — the very control and freedom that Ford, in his masonry, has over his stories — and that, it would seem, they can find only fleetingly, and alone.

United States insists on war, then we will all meet in hell."

But Khrushchev had the wit to know when his bluff was called, and the cleverness to dress up defeat as victory. In securing a no-invasion pledge, he claimed that his goals had been achieved. But it was hard to cover up the humiliation of withdrawal. Castro was furious. His "protector" was suddenly cutting deals with the enemy. The Cuban seemed to prefer a nuclear exchange to backing down.

What is most unsettling in this book is how badly each player misread the other. Castro believed the more Soviet protection there was, the safer he would be. Khrushchev thought he could get away with a strategic provocation of the American giant because the young Kennedy seemed so irresolute. Kennedy thought Cuba was virtually impregnable but that he could choose his own time to deal with the Latin menace. And as the crisis ripened, each leader took steps that made more likely exactly what each was attempting to avoid.

These miscalculations make for chilly reading. No course

was obviously the right one, and the confusion of decision-making, back-channel communication and simple slips-ups, demonstrate how easily things could have gone calamitously wrong.

For students of the Cold

War who enjoy high-stakes,

close-call diplomacy, this is a

compelling book and an im-

portant contribution to under-

standing the last half-century.

Big boys' games



The real U2 spy plane that saw the Russian nuclear missile sites in Cuba

Raymond Seitz

ONE HELL OF A GAMBLE
By Aleksandr Fursenko and Timothy Naftali
John Murray, £25
ISBN 0 7195 5518 3

Soviet foothold in America's back yard would be intolerable. Kennedy approved elaborate CIA plans to destabilise the Cuban regime, and though he had little faith these would work, he feared anything more overt might provoke a harsh Soviet response elsewhere, possibly Berlin.

By 1962 Fidel Castro had completed the make-over of the Cuban revolution from popular peasant uprising to communist police state. Cuba's ideological template was more Maoist than Leninist, but only the Soviet Union could offer protection to an

island 90 miles off the Florida coast. And Castro needed protection. The American-backed Bay of Pigs invasion the year before had failed, but Castro was convinced the Yankees would try again.

Nikita Khrushchev, in the early 1960s, was on a roll. From Sputnik to the Berlin Wall, Moscow had pulled off one spectacular feat after another. But the Kremlin's strategic inferiority ranked Khrushchev (America had stationed Jupiter missiles in Turkey), and China was challenging Moscow for leadership of the international communist movement. Cuba offered an opportunity to sponsor a Third World revolution and to stick a Russian finger in the American eye.

The Bay of Pigs had been a

disgrace for Kennedy, and

Cuba had become a malignant

cancer spreading through the

hemisphere. Moreover, a

U.S. military quarantine of

Cuba instead of an outright

attack, as his service chiefs urged. Rather than a confrontation, the president offered Khrushchev a political way out: a unilateral pledge not to invade Cuba. He also offered an "understanding" that the American missiles in Turkey would be removed (already on the cards anyway).

On October 22, just before

his famous speech to the nation, John Kennedy privately told congressional leaders that if Khrushchev did not dismantle the weapons, America would have to invade Cuba. And if America attacked, Soviet forces there might launch their nuclear missiles. "It was," he said, "one hell of a gamble." Khrushchev, for his part, commented in the *Poliburo*: "If the

Middle
struggles
as Moon
seamer
dominates

THE TIMES THURSDAY AUGUST 28 1997

RACING: KING GEORGE WINNER TACKLES ARC WITHOUT ANOTHER RUN

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

SWAIN, who overcame Pilsudski, Singpiel and Hellsiss in the Ascot mud to win the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes, will go straight for the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at Longchamp on October 5.

The reason is simple: the Godolphin team believes the battle hardened five-year-old — quoted at 7-1 by Ladbrokes — does not need a tune-up in a race such as the Prix Roy. "He's actually taken the King George very well and won't need a prep race," Simon Crisford, the Godolphin rac-



Swain, left, holds off Pilsudski in a driving finish to the King George at Ascot

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: WHATEVER'S RIGHT
(2.30 Lingfield Park)
Ned best: Dashing Blue
(4.00 Lingfield Park)

ing manager, said yesterday. "He would like some give in the ground at Longchamp, but don't forget that will be only his third race of the season and we have always said he is a horse for the second half of the season."

Swain finished fourth in Hellsiss in the Arc last year and was runner-up to the same horse earlier in the season at Saint-Cloud. However, Frankie Dettori will be on board at Longchamp, as Swain attempts to level the score after his Ascot triumph.

Surprisingly, Hellsiss looks set to have a prep race in the Prix du Moulin over a mile on Sunday week. The unorthodox

build-up follows the intervention of Enrique Sarasola, the owner of Hellsiss, who offered Elie Lellooue, the horse's trainer, the choice of the Moulin or a race in Germany. As Lellooue did not wish to send Hellsiss abroad, he has opted for the mile race.

Crisford added: "It's 2-1 to Hellsiss so far but I think we have a great chance. You cannot rule Swain out of the Arc. There is no reason why he should not reproduce his King George form, especially if he gets the soft ground which is usually around at that time of the year. He has to be very much respected." Ladbrokes bets 7-2. Hellsiss, 5-1. Peintre Celebre, 7-1. Pilsudski and

Swain, 14-1. My Emma and Entrepreneur, 16-1. Desert King, 20-1 others.

The Godolphin team has not ruled out keeping Swain in training next year but, in the meantime, the Breeders' Cup and Japan Cup are among his end-of-term options. He is also entered, along with stablemate Classic Cliche, in the Melbourne Cup. The King George winner is 30-1 in Australian ante-post lists with Classic Cliche, a winner at Deauville last Sunday, at 25-1. "Classic Cliche seems to be coming back to his best form," Crisford said. "He ran well in the Ascot Gold Cup and in the Goodwood Cup he was having to give 5lb or more to his

rivals. If he wins the Irish St Leger, he must have a big chance."

A season which began badly for the Sheikh Mohammed-inspired Godolphin outfit now holds the prospect of ending with a flourish. Swainway is favourite for the St Leger after his success in the Great Voltigeur Stakes; Predappio is being aimed at the Canadian International after running in a group one race at Baden-Baden on September 7, while Shamsouc, who could run at Salisbury next week, will attempt to underline her position among the leaders in the betting for next year's 1,000 Guineas by landing the Cheveley Park Stakes.

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FOOTBALL: NINE-GOAL UEFA CUP TIE LEAVES DEFENCES IN TATTERS AND BOTH COACHES BEMUSED

Austrians baffled by Celtic's devilry

BY KEVIN McCARRA

IT MAY be only in sport, with its ability to wrench emotions out of shape, that will hear a man giggle in despair. A moment or two was required before the realisation dawned that Heinz Peschl, who sat shaking his head and emitting a little laugh, was in distress. He had seen his FC Tirol side beaten 6-3 at Celtic Park and so knocked out of the Uefa Cup on a 7-5 aggregate.

Celtic were the victors on Tuesday, but this was a match that defeated both coaches. Neither Peschl nor Wim Jansen, his counterpart, could ever have plotted such a course.

The dressing-rooms had surely been filled with their words of caution and with strictures on the importance of meticulous defending. Both sets of players were attempting to obey, but the game had a marvellous, unruly life of its own.

To be in the ground was like spending the night in a house haunted by a poltergeist. There was constant upheaval and the final eight minutes brought that mayhem to a goals rule.

Some Celtic fans made their despondent calculations and, disgusted with their team, left the ground, but the punishment for a lack of faith was severe.

They had excluded themselves from bliss for, with

three minutes remaining, Morten Wieghorst was impish when he could have been forgiven panic and cleverly worked the space that allowed him to jab home a goal. Deep in injury-time, Craig Burley was to score once again.

Some greater prize than a place in the first round of the Uefa Cup would have been fitting, but the winners were right to celebrate as if this was the greatest triumph.

Joy was deserved reward for the anguish they and their followers had encountered. It was a game in the great, delirious tradition of the club.

Eight years ago, Celtic beat Partizan Belgrade 5-4 on a similarly reckless night, but were knocked out of the Cup Winners' Cup.

Instead of mending its ways and taking up prudence, the club, against Tirol, once more pitched itself into the maelstrom of passion, mistakes and captivating football. Although Jansen can hardly approve, he too was engrossed.

His side were laughably weak in the centre of the defence, but only a pedant could be absorbed by thoughts of that issue.

Tuesday was really a revelation of the value that some unconsidered players may yet possess. Wieghorst, often injured and generally maligned, proved, for example, to be the most influential midfield player in the match.

Henrik Larsson, whose escape clause allowed him to leave Feyenoord for £610,000, over-ran the Innsbruck defence and matched his stamina with artistry. The Swede's



Larsson, of Celtic, takes on two defenders in a typically powerful surge from midfield during a famous victory

strength of mind was impressive too, for it was his unfortunate own goal that had allowed the visitors to draw level at 2-2 just before the interval.

The game did not accord with Jansen's conception of football, but he will still re-

ceive credit for the result. As such, his standing with the supporters, after an awkward beginning to his time with Celtic, has improved.

For another Scottish club, Europe will also be perceived as a means of recovering status, even if Kilmarnock

hope that they can avoid the historians. The Ayrshire club has lost its last two games to Stirling Albion and Hibernian, by margins respectively, of 6-2 and 4-0.

Repetition of that type of frailty this evening, against Shelsbourne in Dublin, would

be ruinous, since Kilmarnock carry forward only a 2-1 lead from the first leg of their Cup-Winners' Cup tie.

Having returned to European football after an absence of 27 years, however, they will be determined to avoid departing it so swiftly.

James catches the eye for resurgent Liverpool

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

DAVID JAMES, the Liverpool goalkeeper, is back to his best. That is the verdict of Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, the striker denied by James' imperious performance in the FA Carling Premiership defeat of Leeds United at Elland Road on Tuesday.

The player nicknamed Calamity James, because of the errors that led to him being omitted from the England squad and that were blamed for Liverpool losing out in the championship last season, produced an unblemished display to inspire Liverpool to a 2-0 win, with goals by Steve McManaman and Karlheinz Riedle.

Hasselbaink, 25, signed by George Graham for £2 million during the close

season, from Boavista, of Portugal, led the applause. "James was out of this world, magnificent. He produced a couple of saves from me that were as good as anything I have ever seen."

"The one when he got down so quick to turn round my close-range shot was the save of his life. I was already celebrating, I couldn't believe he got to it."

James's return to form and Liverpool's high-quality display in winning their first Premiership game of the season left Roy Evans, the manager, a relieved man after the club's worst start to a league programme for 35 years. Hasselbaink said: "If they keep playing like that, they will be championship contenders and, if

I am playing like that, he will soon forget all the stick he took last season. While I was in Portugal, I saw all the Liverpool games on television. I saw the mistakes he made against Newcastle United and the ones against Manchester United. But he was nothing like he had been in those games. He was confident, assured and very agile."

Evans, too, was unreserved in his praise. "David was alive and alert. He's improved over the years, even if he did have a bad spell and was criticised for that. No one denies he did not play well at that time, but he's big enough to take it and, when he's in this form, there is nobody better," he said.

Booth faces month out

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ANDY BOOTH, the Sheffield Wednesday striker, has had a cartilage operation and will be out of action for about a month, adding to the early-season problems of his manager, David Pleat. Wednesday have taken only one point from their first four FA Carling Premiership games and will shortly lose Benito Carbone for a three-match suspension.

Booth, signed for £2.65 million from Huddersfield Town, was Wednesday's top scorer with 13 goals last season, but he damaged a knee in the 1-1 draw with Wimbledon last Saturday. Although he was passed fit to play against Blackburn Rovers on Monday, he had to go off during the first half of the 2-2 defeat.

Carbone can play in the home match against Leicester City on Saturday, but is set to miss the Premiership matches against Liverpool and Coventry City next month, plus a

abortive attempt to sign the 23-year-old early in the close season and has been competing with several other European clubs in the race for his signature. Bolton are now waiting for a Home Office work permit.

Booth hopes to get the green light today to switch this season's remaining home games to Millwall's New Den. The homeless club began the season playing their matches at Priestfield Stadium, the home ground of Gillingham, but the 150-mile round trip has meant that few fans have travelled and only around 2,300 attended the opening home game against Macclesfield Town. The Football League's board of directors will give a final decision on the plan today, with consent likely to be given. However, Brighton have a legal agreement with Gillingham that will cost them £300,000 if the switch goes ahead.

but those hopes ended when Wales decided not to screen the match.

Although they will receive £30,000 from Uefa, European football's governing body, for taking part in the competition, Cwmbran will have to wait until next summer for that cash to filter through.

"We had hoped to make enough money from the home leg to cover our costs for the match in Romania — but we didn't," John Colley, the Cwmbran chairman, who confirmed the club had accepted a loan, said. "We have borrowed money, but I cannot say from whom because of reasons of confidentiality."

Cwmbran's financial plight prompted rumours that the

club would have to cut its playing staff to make ends meet, but Tony Wilcox, the manager, has denied this. Beaten 1-0 by Rhyd in a League of Wales match last weekend, Cwmbran hope to be at full strength in Bucharest, although they face a near impossible task to save the tie.

Wales are to invite England to play a World Cup warm-up match before next year's finals in France. The countries have not met since the end of the British Championship 13 years ago. Wales winning the last match at Wrexham 1-0 with a goal from Mark Hughes.

We are negotiating a number of options for friendly fixtures," David Collins, secre-

Kinkladze adds to City woe

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE injury sustained by Georgi Kinkladze out of Manchester City nimbly out of the second half and then excelling in the shoot-out. A former West Ham apprentice, Banks joined Blackpool from Gillingham for £60,000 two years ago. He denied City for 88 minutes on Tuesday, only for Kevin Horlock to cancel out Andy Preece's first-leg goal and send the tie into extra time.

That is when Banks really came to the fore, producing a string of outstanding saves. In the shoot-out, his save from Horlock's spot kick turned the tide and City were sunk when Lee Bradbury blazed wide, allowing Micky Mellon to clinch victory.

"I don't care who we get in the next round now," Banks said yesterday. "If it's a big team, then it will be good for the club. If it's not, we will have a better chance of going through. We'll play anyone."

Kinkladze, Georgia doubt

about the influx of South American and Eastern European players. The Brazilians, Romario, Sonny Anderson, Rivaldo, Juninho and Giovanni, are among the leading players in Spain.

The announcement means

Players back down on strike in Spain

THE TIMES

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SQUASH

Heath wins in style by resisting notorious old seducer

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN
IN HONG KONG

MARTIN Heath, of Scotland, who last weekend successfully defended his Singapore Open title, yesterday began in similar fashion in Hong Kong with a straight-games victory over Simon Parke, the No 5 seed, in the first round of the Cathay Pacific Hong Kong Open.

After the clear superiority of Peter Nicol in the opening first-round session on Tuesday, it was a result that suggests Scotland might be dominating a third successive tournament on the PSA World Tour after Nicol's win in the Al Ahram International and Heath's in Singapore.

"His confidence was strong," Parke acknowledged of Heath, 24. For his part, Parke wanted a good start to the tour after recovering from a brush with testicular cancer last year. "You could call me disappointed."

Heath was more pleased with the style of his first win over the world No 5 and England No 2 than with the substance. "That was a really good performance for me," he said. "I have never played that well on this Hong Kong court, which this year seemed exceptionally cold after the hot courts in Singapore. I never want to get into a running game with Simon, but I had to resist going for shots too much in case I blew what was obviously an opportunity."

The court, which has glass on three sides, at the Hong Kong squash centre is a notorious seducer of shotmakers. Earlier in the day, the No 3 seed and defending Hong Kong champion, Rodney Sykes of Australia, came from behind to beat Graham Ryding, only because the young Canadian became too excited to clinch his winning opportunities.

Chris Walker, the No 7 seed and England No 1, could find no such route out from under the pressure imposed upon him by Paul Johnson, of Kent, a man ranked 15 places behind him.

Derek Ryan, the experienced Irish champion, went down 13-15 in the fifth game of a two-hour marathon with Nick Taylor, a qualifier with whom he trains in Manchester. Julian Bonet, the French champion, lost touchily to Stephen Meads, of Berkshire. The notoriously bad-tempered Australian, Anthony Hill, went almost with a whimper to the strongest and most rhythmic performance yet from Peter Marshall, the Nottingham double-hander.

CYCLING

First gold goes to Australia

By PETER BRYAN

SHANE KELLY, appropriate for the host nation, took the first gold medal of the world track championships in Berlin, Germany, yesterday, when he won his third consecutive one-kilometre time-trial title. He has made the event his specialty and holds the world record with a time of 1min 0.613sec set at altitude in Bogota two years ago.

His was an inspired performance on the 250-metre indoor wooden track. Kelly, with the pressure on him as champion, was the last man to start, chasing a time of 1min 3.397sec set by Soren Larsen, of Germany.

Kelly's final lap, when he pulled out unexpected reserves, took him to victory by 0.24sec from the silver medal-winner of last year.

In the other final on the opening day, the keirin, Frederic Magne, of France, made a swift opportunist move with one lap to go and finished unchallenged.

Peter Jacques, the British champion, lost control and fell heavily when trying to avoid a dangerous manoeuvre by a Spanish rider. Jacques lay on the side of the track for several minutes while splinters were removed from his left thigh.

Rob Hayles, of Britain, the champion, failed to qualify for the quarter-finals, recording 4min 35.23sec, six seconds slower than his best. The fastest rider for the semi-finals today is Philippe Ermensaut, of France. The Olympic champion, Andrea Collinelli, of Italy, also reached the last

Booth faces month out

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

Coca-Cola Cup tie after being sent off at Ewood Park.

Bolton Wanderers are a step closer to signing the South African defender, Mark Fish, after Lazio yesterday belatedly gave the club permission to press ahead with the £2 million deal. Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, made an

abortive attempt to sign the 23-year-old early in the close season and has been competing with several other European clubs in the race for his signature. Bolton are now waiting for a Home Office work permit.

Booth hopes to get the green light today to switch this season's remaining home games to Millwall's New Den. The homeless club began the season playing their matches at Priestfield Stadium, the home ground of Gillingham, but the 150-mile round trip has meant that few fans have travelled and only around 2,300 attended the opening home game against Macclesfield Town. The Football League's board of directors will give a final decision on the plan today, with consent likely to be given. However, Brighton have a legal agreement with Gillingham that will cost them £300,000 if the switch goes ahead.

but those hopes ended when Wales decided not to screen the match.

Although they will receive £30,000 from Uefa, European football's governing body, for taking part in the competition, Cwmbran will have to wait until next summer for that cash to filter through.

"We had hoped to make enough money from the home leg to cover our costs for the match in Romania — but we didn't," John Colley, the Cwmbran chairman, who confirmed the club had accepted a loan, said. "We have borrowed money, but I cannot say from whom because of confidentiality."

Cwmbran's financial plight prompted rumours that the

Kinkladze adds to City woe

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE injury sustained by Georgi Kinkladze out of Manchester City nimbly out of the second half and then excelling in the shoot-out. A former West Ham apprentice, Banks joined Blackpool from Gillingham for £60,000 two years ago. He denied City for 88 minutes on Tuesday, only for Kevin Horlock to cancel out Andy Preece's first-leg goal and send the tie into extra time.

That is when Banks really came to the fore, producing a string of outstanding saves. In the shoot-out, his save from Horlock's spot kick turned the tide and City were sunk when Lee Bradbury blazed wide, allowing Micky Mellon to clinch victory.

"I don't care who we get in the next round now," Banks said yesterday. "If it's a big team, then it will be good for the club. If it's not, we will have a better chance of going through. We'll play anyone."

Kinkladze, Georgia doubt

about the influx of South American and Eastern European players. The Brazilians, Romario, Sonny Anderson, Rivaldo, Juninho and Giovanni, are among the leading players in Spain.

The announcement means

that the Spanish season will begin, as scheduled, this weekend. Talks between the various parties will take place on September 18. Until now, Spanish clubs, allowed to use an unlimited number of EU players under the Bosman ruling, have also been able to sign up to six players from outside the EU bloc and field as many as four.

The AFE says it is concerned

The Georgia mid-field player was taken off on a stretcher during the defeat by Blackpool and Roy Bailey, the City physiotherapist, yesterday had mixed news. "George has had an X-ray on his injured left ankle and, thankfully, there is no fracture," Bailey said, "but it is still badly swollen and bruised."

Kinkladze could be out of action for up to a month, which would be a blow, not only to City, but to England supporters, hoping that the former Dynamo Tbilisi player would work his magic against Italy in a World Cup qualifying group two match in Tbilisi on September

THE TIMES THURSDAY AUGUST 28 1997

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Images claim

Junter ahead

A short course in the diplomatic niceties

REVIEW

Peter Barnard



Dear Clare Short. Those of us who suspected that your appointment as International Development Secretary was that clever Mr Blair's way of giving you enough rope to hang yourself are beginning to nod sagely. Mind, we scarce thought that people calling themselves Montserratians would be your nemesis (if so it proved) but you cannot go about splitting fizzy in people's faces, especially when said people are already up to here in volcanic ash.

The truth is that Montserrat is no place for a straight-talking lady to start a career in international politics. Heavens, no. Majorca is where you should have started. You cannot be International Development Secretary in a pulsating modern government without first acquiring the skills of diplomacy and tact which you, rather endearingly, seem to lack.

You cannot say (though you did)

of a Montserratian whose very home is turning into toast that he will be "wanting golden elephants next". Whereas, and here we reach the core of this unsolicited, though I trust welcome, career advice, whereas something of the kind addressed to that unloved creature, the British lager lout, would be just the ticket.

What an International Development Secretary needs is a spell acclimatising to the diplomatic weather, an opportunity to take the temperature of the job in a less sensitive port: a gradual introduction to the niceties, the sensitivities, of global intercourse.

Therefore, Inside Story: Our Man in Majorca (BBC1) should have been required viewing in the short household last night. Here we met a man with a wonderful job at once part of the heady diplomatic round and yet somehow divorced from it. John Blakenore is British Consul in

Palma de Majorca and as such he is, as he was at pains to point out, very busy in the summer.

The same could be said for a person selling ice cream or deckchairs, though admittedly a British consul is under slightly greater pressure. Among Britain's temporary summer exports to Majorca there appear to be some exceptionally idiotic people, though one had to admire the zealous bilingualism of one young man: "Can you tell me where to catch a bus: public transport?"

Of course you, Ms Short, could have told him not only where to catch it but also what to do with it. What, though, might you have made of trickier case, the chap who ended up in hospital having gone to Palma airport for the flight home and suffered a blackout? What would you have done about his shoes?

They were missing by the time he fetched up at the consulate. Given Blakenore's earnest belief that the consulate had to help where possible but "cannot afford to be seen as a soft touch", this was a tricky one to call. Would you (a) send the consular assistant out for a pair of cheap sandals (b) tell him hardly anyone wears shoes in Majorca in summer or (c) say: "You'll be wanting Gucci boots

and more on to the serious business of bullying, which is the subject of a BBC season at present. Bully: I Just Want It To Stop (BBC2) was an excellent film about an experiment in one school which, by taking a positive attitude to both the bullies and the bullied, is showing impressive results.

Cartington Community College in Oxfordshire operates a system whereby teachers gather a small group of about five pupils together to discuss a specific pupil who is being bullied. The victim is not in the group but one or two of the bullying children are.

Blakenore and his staff, which includes his wife, manage a busy but relatively sedate corner of England's foreign field, an ideal location, surely, for the bleeding of politicians who might one day have to deal with unexpected crises in half-forgotten colonies. I leave the thought with you, Ms Short.

ing was: "I just felt lonely. There are so many groups in the school. I'm not in any of them."

One's heart goes out to children treated in this way, but Vicki certainly benefited from the no-blame approach adopted by the school and the creators of the scheme, educationists Barbara Maines and George Robinson, say it is up to 90 per cent effective. There is convincing evidence that making every child in a group responsible for terminating the bullying is far better than trying to root out bullies and punish them.

Apart from showing how the scheme works, the programme effectively demonstrated why it is necessary. Virtually every adult will identify in one way or another with what the children in the film said, for in childhood, every generation seems to need to be part of a group, to be accepted by peers. If the cycle of bullying can be broken, the future will be enriched.

You cannot say (though you did)

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (21041).
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (30729).
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (5885848).
9.20 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (584738).
9.50 Esther: Nannies (T) (673225).
10.20 Put It to the Test (T) (5070586).
10.45 Carriger's Caribbean Curried Lobster salad, salad in rum and lime oil (T) (2765190).

11.00 News (T) and weather (2583041).
11.05 Alison's Last Mountain (T) (122) (T) (6133472).

11.35 Paradox of the Emperor (T) (8373684).

12.00 News (T) and weather (4103408).

12.05 Wipeout (T) (8380645).

12.35 Neighbours (T) (1822515).

1.00 News (T) and weather (26026).

1.30 Regional News and Weather (9558732).

1.40 Columbus: Murder by the Book (1971).

FILM: The dishevelled detective, Peter Falk

investigates the seemingly cut-and-dried

murders of two mystery writers. Directed by Steven Spielberg (T) (T) (5770657).

2.00 Quincey (T) (3707564).

3.40 Popeye (T) (6106853). 3.45 Peter Pan and the Pirates (T) (7346456). 4.15 Dribbles (T) (1878347). 4.35 Cartoon Critic (T) (1933025).

5.00 Newsworld (T) (2253461).

5.10 Byker Grove (T) (T) (3114374).

5.35 Neighbours (T) (501933).

6.00 News (T) and weather (116).

6.30 Regional News Magazine (769).

7.00 Watchdog: Value for Money buying from abroad via the Internet: saving money on wedding hire. Last in series (T) (6732).

7.30 Eastenders: A day out ends in disaster for Ricky and Bianca (T) (5833).

8.00 Home Starter — a life in Comedy in the second part of the documentary charting the comedian's career, Ronan Keating explains why he wrote his sketches under the pseudonym of Gerald Wiley (T) (5480).

8.30 Pilgrims' Reel: Bob mistakes a friendship, hoping for his ticket to a Status Quo concert (T) (4515).

9.00 News (T), regional news and weather (3867).

9.30 INTERNATIONAL: Daring rescue, including that of a diver lost in a maze of caves in Venezuela; how African flying doctors saved a tribesman shot by an arrow (T) (483225).

10.20 Making Babies: Tamia and Ray's story. A short documentary series updating the story of Tamia and Ray's quest for an IVF baby (22) (T) (592848).

10.50 BBC Proms '97: North and South Leeds International Piano Competition winner Ian Hall plays Grieg's Piano Concerto in A minor with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, under Vassily Sinaisky (T) (591954).

11.45 Hammer and His Sisters (1985) Woody Allen's comedy drama charting the lives of three very different sisters over a two-year period. With Dianne Wiest, Michael Caine and Mira Farrow. (37190).

1.30pm Weather (T) (577251).

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusPad: The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode® numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with the plusPad — handset. Tap in the number for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ (T) (5770657) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am Open University: Designs for Living (958175). 6.25 Harvesting the Sun (4346472). 6.50 Problems with Irons (9838954).

7.15 See... Hear... Breakfast News (T) (5688933).

7.30 Teletubbies (T) (489157). 7.55 Bum (T) (1277645). 8.10 Raincoats (T) (1176222).

8.35 Get Your Own Back (T) (5240243).

9.05 Mighty Max (T) (7687954). 9.35 Glad Rags (T) (6735683). 10.05 Smurfs Adventures (T) (5714671). 10.25 Oakey Dokey (T) (4016190). 10.35 Spider (T) (2783396). 10.45 Teletubbies (T) (462915).

11.15 Nitroblitz (1938, b/w) Acclaimed vintage comedy, starring Greta Garbo and Melvyn Douglas. Directed by Ernst Lubitsch (T) (2783254).

1.35pm For the Love of (3932088). 1.40 Blockbusters (1053328). 2.05 The Natural World Classics (T) (4162242).

3.00 Modern Times: A look at a year in the life of the Victoria and Albert Museum, which saw the appointment of a new director (T) (2022428).

3.55 News (T); regional news and weather (7605577).

4.00 The Million Pound Note (1954) Gregory Peck stars in Mark Twain's story about a man who finds it impossible to spend a million pound bank note. With Jane Griffith and Joyce Grenfell. Directed by Ronald Neame (5477022).

5.25 Today's Courier (T) (384703).

5.30 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (T) (346732).

6.45 Whine, Jam, Wave and Jump! (578554).

7.30 Leviathan Mark Urban offers an insight into the downfall of the last Scottish Parliament. (T) (228).

8.00 BBC's The Air Show Hazel Irvine introduces a new series of aviation reports (3222).

8.30 Motorworld Dubai (T) (2157).

9.00 Third Rock from the Sun (T) (742206).

Bullies' victim Jo Brand (9.25pm)

Russell Boulton is DS Boulton (9.00)

6.00 The Bill DS Boulton (Russell Boulton) is hampered by an informant whose love for his brother is getting in the way of an investigation (T) (7848).

8.30 Her Alibi (1988) with Tom Selleck, Paula Ponkova and James Peronino.

FILM: An author suffering from writer's block tries to get inspiration by studying a murderess. Directed by Bruce Beresford (51190).

10.00 News at Ten (T) (25848).

10.30 Regional News (T) (247935).

10.40 West Eye View Current affairs series with Ray Tostivin (33138).

11.15 On the Waterfront (281138).

11.45 New York News (70564).

12.35 The LADS (T) (7425097).

1.10 Emergency (3625523).

1.40 Planet Rock Profiles (2925253).

2.10 Late and Loud (T) (5038436).

3.10 Jones and Jury (T) (8247692).

3.35 The Good Side Guide Late (T) (5856054).

4.25 Phenomenon (2205436).

4.35 The Time, the Place (T) (7087316).

5.00 The Pulse (T) (57928).

5.30 News (88165).

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Show (T) (193178). 9.20 Radio 1 Live (193159). 9.30 Entertainment (T) (56490).

4.00 Linda (1984). 4.50 Semper and Sally (T) (2423157). 5.00 Friends at Last (T) (2423158).

5.20 Out There (T) (1983) (T) (245451).

6.00 Lord of Illusions (T) (1985) (T) (24187).

12.30 Shadow Dancer (1985) (T) (57178).

1.45 The King (1988) (T) (329611). 1.55 All That Jazz (1979) (T) (582333). 3.30 No Sex Please, We're British (T) (4723).

11.45 The Queen's Diamond Jubilee (T) (583175).

12.00 The Queen's Diamond Jubilee (T) (583176).

12.30 The Queen's Diamond Jubilee (T) (583177).

1.00 The Queen's Diamond Jubilee (T) (583178).

1.30 The Queen's Diamond Jubilee (T) (583179).

1.45 The Queen's Diamond Jubilee (T) (583180).

1.55 The Queen's Diamond Jubilee (T) (583181).

2.00 The Queen's Diamond Jubilee (T) (583182).

2.30 The Queen's Diamond Jubilee (T) (583183).

2.45 The Queen's Diamond Jubilee (T) (583184).

2.55 The Queen's Diamond Jubilee (T) (583185).

3.00 The Queen's Diamond Jubilee (T) (583186).

3.15 The Queen's Diamond Jubilee (T) (583187).

3.30 The Queen's Diamond Jubilee (T) (583188).

3.45 The Queen's Diamond Jubilee (T) (583189).

**CRICKET 38**

Gloucestershire's bowlers keep challenge alive

THURSDAY AUGUST 28 1997

SPORT

GOLF 41

Uncertainty over
Ryder Cup line-up
troubles Ballesteros

Everton deny deal is imminent

Exit slammed shut in face of Ravanelli

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

FABRIZIO RAVANELLI'S efforts to leave Middlesbrough, which have degenerated into one of the most protracted sagas this year, appeared to have foundered again yesterday. Everton were reported to have resurrected negotiations, which had taken on a new slant as a player-exchange deal, but the clubs denied any knowledge of the discussions.

Everton were believed to have offered Earl Barrett, the defender, and Graham Stuart, the forward, plus £3 million in an attempt to persuade Middlesbrough to reduce their asking price of £7.5 million for Ravanelli, the disenchanted Italy striker. However, Middlesbrough were quick to pour scorn on the suggestion.

"We have had no recent contact with Everton whatsoever," Viv Anderson, the Middlesbrough assistant manager, said. "Our situation has not changed. The asking price is £7.5 million and we want cash. We are not interested in the players named in reports. Their valuations are above our valuations."

Ravanelli and his many advisers spoke extensively with Peter Johnson, the Everton chairman, and Howard Kendall, the manager, during the summer. He was disillusioned by Middles-

brough's relegation to the Nationwide League first division and felt that it would affect his chances of playing for Italy.

The talks broke down because of Ravanelli's demands. Although he earns £42,000 a week at the Riverside Stadium and is the highest-paid player in England, he wanted a wage rise of £8,000 a week and a seven-figure signing-on fee. Despite Kendall's need for a goalscorer forward, he balked at the terms and ended the discussions.

With other clubs also losing interest, Ravanelli was forced to return to Middlesbrough,

for whom he scored 31 goals last season, and resume his contract. He has scored once in two matches this season, but has been the target of abuse from some sections of supporters, who feel betrayed by his apparent lack of loyalty to the club. Their mood was not helped by the 1-0 home defeat against Stoke City on Saturday.

Ironically, Ravanelli has now re-entered the thoughts of Cesare Maldini, the Italy

coach. On Tuesday he was called into the Italy squad for the World Cup group two qualifying match against Georgia in Tbilisi on September 10, the result of which could affect England's chances of reaching the finals in France next year.

Kendall spent the weekend in Holland, where he watched a player. "I had the opportunity to go over to check out a recommendation," he said yesterday. "Unfortunately, it is one we can now scrub off our list."

However, he has not made any moves to pursue Ravanelli again. "Boro lost at the weekend, so I suppose people will look at that and say that they might be more keen to sell now," Kendall said. "You don't change your opinion on a world-class player, which is what Ravanelli is, but we have had no contact with them. There are many other things to consider before I would even think about reopening talks."

Tomas Brolin, the unsettled Leeds United striker, may have more success in leaving Elland Road. Brolin, who joined the club from Parma, Italy, for £4.3 million in November 1995, is hoping to sign for Real Zaragoza, Spain.

"We are 99 per cent certain of agreeing a deal with Zaragoza," Mats Olsson, Brolin's adviser, said yesterday.

Brolin briefly returned to Leeds in July, after loan spells with FC Zurich and Parma last season, but George Graham, the manager, swiftly made it clear that he was surplus to requirements. He was not even included in the pre-season team photocall.

Hopes of an early return from injury for Alan Shearer were dashed yesterday after an about-turn by Sir John Hall, the Newcastle United chairman. Sir John had said that the England and Newcastle striker could be recovered from ankle ligament damage by November, but he revised his estimate after speaking to the club doctor in Zagreb before Newcastle's European Cup second qualifying round tie. He has informed me that it is far too early to give any indication as to when Alan will be back. Sir John said.

Having lost his opening match in seven of his 11 tournaments this year, Agas-



Normal service is resumed with Agassi in action against Campbell during his three sets to one win in the first round at Flushing Meadows

Agassi's charm offensive in full flow

FROM DAVID POWELL
IN NEW YORK

WHEN Andre Agassi was preparing to tie the matrimonial knot with Brooke Shields last April, something else was working loose — his grip on his place among the world's tennis elite. He began the year ranked No 12, but, by mid-August, he had slipped to his lowest position in a decade, No 74.

Given the alarming decline of the game's most charismatic player, he was in need of a friend and the US Open here has usually been that to him. It is the grand slam tournament that has provided him with his most consistent success: he has won it once, finished runner-up twice and reached the semis on three other occasions.

Having lost his opening match in seven of his 11 tournaments this year, Agas-

si's progress here seemed far from certain, even though his first-round opponent was a little-known wild-card entrant, Steve Campbell, ranked No 130 but eager to impress in the city of his birth. If the vultures were gathering, there seemed good reason.

Tony Trabert, twice champion in the 1950s, had pronounced Agassi's form dead. "He does not have anything now," Trabert said. "He does not have his fitness, does not have his foot speed, does not have his confidence." This was not the Agassi we saw here at Flushing Meadows on Tuesday night. Though he began the match with a double-fault, he ousted Campbell 6-1, 6-1, 4-6, 6-3.

Philip Agassi, the player's manager and brother, had denied that marriage had come at the price of his tennis. The man himself had said, after a minor rena-

sance in Indianapolis two weeks ago, where he survived three rounds: "My relationship with Brooke is nothing but good."

His relationship with sections of the 21,000 spectators in the Arthur Ashe stadium needed working on. He was

Results 41
Bruguera fightback 42

introduced to loud applause with an undercurrent of jeers, some objecting to his failure the night before to appear in the stadium's opening ceremony.

However, in a good-humoured match, Agassi played the funny man. Campbell was a set and 2-0 down, having lost six successive games, when he played a blistering forehand out of Agassi's reach. The former champion stood left

hand on left hip, striking an indignant pose of the kind which one might expect his wife on screen, then threw his racket to the ground in mock anger.

On another occasion, when Agassi found himself face to face with Campbell across the net, he waved his racket as though he was fencing. He had the crowd in the palm of his hand and Campbell at the end of his sword.

Agassi, who won the tournament when unseeded in 1994, moved his opponent around the court, stretching him out for wide for the service returns. "I am very pleased with my game," he said. "I am moving well. The fundamentals of everything I need to improve on are there. Now it is a matter of fine-tuning. When I got out there, I remembered the dance."

In the second game of the second set, Agassi, playing in his first grand-slam tourna-

ment of the year, displayed power and dexterity in successive points, the first a venomous backhand down the line, the second, a deft touch over the net.

Agassi is now ranked No 63 and is without a title win this year. Still, though, he has his 727 jet and a reported ten-year \$100 million (£64 million) contract with Nike. Next he will play Adriano Vozea, from Romania, but then he is scheduled to face his first severe test, against Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the No 5 seed, from Russia.

Having been expected at the opening ceremony, Agassi was asked to explain why he did not show. He was said to be upset that his name was not read out during the roll-call of champions at the dinner. Agassi denied this, saying he needed to "make a call". Asked to elaborate, he refused. Unyielding off court and on.

Russians' advance blocked

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

KOSICE, of Slovakia, earned a place in the European Cup Champions' League yesterday when they fought out a goalless draw with Spartak Moscow in the second leg of their qualifying round match in Russia. Spartak failed to convert 90 minutes of relentless pressure into a goal, leaving Kosice to go through 2-1 on aggregate.

The Russian team's attack spearheaded by Dmitry Alenichev and Robson, the Brazilian, repeatedly lost their way amid the packed Slovak defence. The fast-breaking Ruslan Lubarski kept Spartak on their toes but it was essentially one-way traffic.

Ladislav Molnar, in the Kosice goal, was rarely stretched, though only the

woodwork saved him during a desperate Spartak onslaught five minutes from time.

In Ukraine, Dynamo Kiev lost 1-0 to Brondby but went through 4-3 on aggregate, courtesy of a 4-2 victory in Denmark in the first leg. The visitors scored in the ninth minute, when a Kiev defender, trying to head the ball out of danger after a corner, looped it into the net with an overhead kick.

Kiev missed two good opportunities to equalise, but Brondby also failed to capitalise on a promising attack near the end of the first half and entered the second period needing two goals to win on aggregate. However, Kiev hit the woodwork shortly after the break. But it was not to be.

Emerson, Bayer Leverkusen's new signing, missed a good opportunity to equalise.

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Oldham suffers on two fronts

Christopher Irvine on how fans in the town are bearing up after a terrible day

The morning after the night before and the pain if anything, was worse. In a sackcloth and ashes edition, the headline in the *Oldham Chronicle* said "It's doom and gloom". Oldham Bears rugby league and Oldham Athletic football clubs have a habit of sharing the few good times and the longer bad ones, of which so-called "black Tuesday" is merely the latest.

The affinity between Paris and Grimsby is not instantly apparent, but it was in these two places that the Bears were relegated from the Coca-Cola Cup in a 50 defeat at the hands of Grimsby Town, within minutes of one another.

As the two clubs share

best years in the early part of the century, with Athleatic slipping back two divisions in three seasons after relegation from the FA Carling Premiership in 1994 and the Bears facing up to life next year in the first division, the starting at least in terms of their record.

Park, poised to end, the club has struggled to meet rental costs of £7,000 per match this year and a move to their training headquarters, at the more modest Oldham rugby union club, seems a logical move, if the club is to survive.

For the 200 Bears supporters in the French capital, there was only one way to handle relegation from the Super League. Their hangover persists. Not that an eyelid was baited in Paris or Grimsby about a far away town in sporting torment.

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Name/Address _____

SOLUTION TO NO 1183
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DOWN: 1 Hadrian 2 Tubby 3 Hit 4 Tippet 5 Hush money 6 Sweeper 7 Ellen 11 Steadfast 13 Partake 15 Digness 16 Pile up 17 Angles 18 Pulse 20 Con